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OF THE

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

OF

Shorthand Writers

OF THE

UNITED STATES AND CANADA,

HELD AT THE

PALMER HOUSE,

CHICAGO,

Thursday and Friday, Sept. 1st and 2d,

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PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY.

The first International Convention of Shorthand Writers of the United States and Canada met in the club room of the Palmer House, Chicago, Ill., Thursday, Sept. 1st, 1881.

10 A. M. The convention was called to order by John T. Bell, of Omaha, Neb., who nominated Mr. J. L. Bennett, of Chicago, as temporary Chairman, and Dan Brown, of Chicago, as Secretary.

Mr. Bennett said:

"*Ladies and Gentlemen of the Phonographic Profession.*

"I have been selected to call this convention to order, and have been designated by the committee of arrangements to extend to you the fraternal greeting of your Chicago brethren.

"There has been too much business laid out for your consideration for me at this time to indulge in any extended remarks, even were I so disposed.

"You represent a profession which, though young in years, has attained an importance realized by but few outside of its ranks, and but imperfectly understood by those within. One object of this convention is to cement those who practise our art into a common brotherhood—a profession. The details of your action will be left with you. The committee of arrangements did not think it wise at this first meeting to more than outline a general program to guide you. The topics which will be presented will afford ample opportunity for a comparison of views on many matters pertaining to the profession, and with the organization of an International Association you will find your hands full for one day, at least.

"Hoping that this day's work may be of lasting benefit to our profession, I await the pleasure of the convention."

T. C. Rose, Ithaca, N. Y., moved the appointment of a committee on credentials and organization. The motion was carried, and the chairman appointed the following committee: Theo. C. Rose, Ithaca, N. Y.; John T. Bell, Omaha, Neb.;

Charles T. Brown, Chicago; Leo A. Longley, Cincinnati; T. I. Daniel, Jackson, Mich. The committee reported as members the names of shorthand writers in attendance, registered, as follows:

Miss Emily H. Aldrich, Chicago;
James Abbott, Chicago;
Charles Alexander, Oskaloosa, Iowa;
J. L. Bennett, Chicago;
C. T. Brown, Chicago;
M. M. Bartholomew, Belleville, Ill.;
D. L. Scott Browne, New York City;
John T. Bell, Omaha, Neb.;
Nelson R. Butcher, Toronto, Ont.;
George Bengough, Toronto, Ont;
Flora L. Brown, Chicago;
Charles H. Briot, Chicago;
Mrs. D. L. Scott Browne, New York City;
W. C. Boyle, Pittsburg, Pa.;
P. O'Neil Byrne, Chicago;
Dan Brown, Chicago;
Gideon L. Barber, Chicago;
E. J. Collette, Green Bay, Wis.;
Martin Cummings, Chicago;
Fannie A. Cole, Chicago;
John F. Coykendall, Peoria, Ill.;
W. G. Chaffee, Oswego, N. Y.;
Converse Clement, Evansville, Ind.;
William C. Cubitt, Chicago;
Annie W. Cumming, Chicago;
Mary A. Clark, Englewood, Ill;
J. Cover, Washington, D. C.;
Thomas I. Daniel, Jackson, Mich.;
F. S. Dean, Cleveland, Ohio;
L. H. Daniels, Chicago;
E. A. Drinkwater, Chicago;
L. P. Dosh, Davenport, Iowa;
L. H. Eddy, Denver, Col.;
John Egan, Middlebury, Ind.;
Theos. A. Frey, Chicago;
Charles Forward, Cleveland, Ohio;
H. W. Fletcher, Albany, Ill.;
George F. Francis, Chicago;
A. W. Fisk, De Kalb, Ill.
R. F. Gottschalk, Chicago;
S. B. Wright, Oskaloosa, Iowa;
E. Bush Grover, Cleveland, Ohio;
W. R. Garrow, Chicago;
Florence Hartley, Chicago;
"Phocion" Howard, Springfield, Ill.;
Henry F. Hyde, Chicago;
George Hingston, Joliet, Ill.;
N. S. Hovland, Chicago;
Joseph McH. Holmes, Cleveland, Ohio;
Hattie A. Hall, Chicago;
Mrs. F. A. Holland, Chicago;
L. L. Hinman, Chicago;
L. H. Hudson, Terre Haute, Ind.;
W. R. Hall, St. Louis, Mo.;
Miss R. M. Ingalls, Oak Park, Ill.;
Clara Irvin, Evanston, Ill.;
W. A. Jackson, Chicago;
W. H. Jayne, Chicago;
W. C. Kenyon, Omaha, Neb.;
Edward Keough, Elgin, Ill.;
W. P. Kent, Chicago;
Mrs. R. Howard Kelly, Chicago;
W. T. Kirke, St. Paul, Minn.;
Mrs. Flora H. Leland, Albany, Ill.;
Leo A. Longley, Cincinnati, Ohio;
T. T. Lyon, Canton, Ill.;
Lucius P. Little, Owensboro, Ky.;
F. W. McCann, Memphis, Tenn.;
E. R. Magie, Chicago;
G. McCormick, Irving Park, Ill.;
Miss Lizzie Magie, Chicago;
W. S. Moffatt, Chicago;
J. A. McKee, Bloomington, Ill.;
Alex. W. McClure, Chicago;
Geo. E. Marshall, Chicago;
Helen T. Pierson, Cincinnati, Ohio;
Marion Pickett, Chicago;
Mrs. M. W. Pinkerton, Chicago;
Henry A. Pearsall, Chicago;
Jas. A. Philbrick, Quincy, Ill.;
Chas. T. Platt, Philadelphia, Pa.;
Frank W. Pettit, Chicago;
J. G. Pomerene, Cleveland, Ohio;

R. A. Reese, Bernadotte, Ill.;
Theo. C. Rose, Ithaca, N. Y.;
Henry J. Reeziger, Chicago;
Wm. M. Radcliffe, Elgin, Ill.;
A. E. Rawson, Chicago;
A. B. Reid, Chicago;
Eleanora H. Robinson, Richmond, Ind.;
Fannie M. Robinson, Richmond, Ind.;
Eugene Shafter, Batavia, Ill.;
George Schwartz, Chicago;
Eliza Shanley, Chicago;
William Shimwell, Milwaukee, Wis.;
J. R. Smith, Chicago;
J. A. Sawyer, Chicago;
Henry C. Stowell, Chicago;
H. H. Strohm, Chicago;
M. F. Strider, Chicago;
T. J. Tilley, Topeka, Kan.;
M. L. Terwilliger, Chicago;
J. G. Thomas, Chicago;
William Utting, Chicago;
H. H. Unz, Chicago;
C. C. Valentine, Yankton, Dakota,;
A. D. Williston, Chicago;
C. E. Walker, Sioux City, Iowa;
F. E. Wolcott, Chicago;
O. D. White, Chicago;
F. J. Wolfe, Cleveland, Ohio;
F. W. Wodell, Hamilton, Ont.;
Jas. Whittemore, Chicago;
Benj. Weaver, Danville, Ill.;
Lida Wilkinson, Jacksonville, Ill.;
F. S. Woods, Aurora, Ill.

The committee also reported the following as officers of the convention:

For President, J. L. Bennett, Chicago.

For Vice-Presidents, L. H. Eddy, Denver, Col.; W. G. Chaffee, Oswego, N. Y.

For Secretary and Treasurer, Dan Brown, Chicago.

For Assistant Secretary, Mrs. F. A. Holland, Chicago.

On motion the report was adopted.

President Bennett—"The first paper to be read is on the

OBJECT OF THE CONVENTION,

by John T. Bell, President of the Nebraska State Stenographers' Association, Omaha."

Mr. Bell said:

"*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

"Whatever credit there may be in the calling of this convention belongs to Mr. Samuel F. Donnelly, of the *Omaha Telegram*, he having made the first suggestion with regard to it at a meeting of the Nebraska State Stenographers' Association last January, his proposition being that it should be held in Omaha, and that those attending should be the guests of our society. A committee was appointed to take the matter under advisement, to report at the next monthly meeting, and the Secretary of the Association, Mr. George W. Boyden, was requested to prepare a paper upon the subject.

"The report and the paper were presented at the February meeting, and the proposition fully discussed, the conclusion reached being that there would

be too much of the "Westward, ho!" business connected with the holding of the proposed convention in Omaha to secure the attendance of our Eastern friends, and it was then suggested that Chicago be selected, provided the stenographers of that city would take sufficient interest in the matter. Correspondence was at once begun with Brown & Holland, of the Chicago Shorthand Writers Association, who reported a decided interest on the part of the local stenographers on the subject, and from that time the firm of Brown & Holland have been up to their eyes in a correspondence throughout the entire Union, and overflowing our northern boundaries into Canada. If this convention prove a success, and an International Association of the Shorthand Writers of the United States and Canada is effected, it will be owing in great measure to the enthusiastic, intelligent, active and laborious efforts of Brown & Holland, who have left undone nothing which lay in their power to accomplish that most desirable end.

"It would seem as though the advantages to accrue to our profession by an international organization must be apparent to all present. There is scarcely a trade or profession known in this country that has not its local, State and national organizations to protect and advance its various interests, and certainly none need it more than our own. To properly classify its followers, that the public may not be imposed upon, and to fully define the qualifications necessary to proficiency, to the end that experts receive fair compensation for service performed, should be the special task of the proposed organization. The latter would include securing just and proper legislation in States where such legislation has not been had, and to prevent ignorant and unfair interference by the law-maker of the future in those States where wise and judicious laws have already been enacted. There is a strata of good common sense underlying our form of government, and it is not difficult to secure proper legislation on a given subject, provided legislators are furnished with necessary information regarding it. This is especially so respecting the use of shorthand in the courts, and the arguments in favor thereof are so overwhelming that they must prevail, and to properly present them where occasion requires should be one of the objects of a national or international association. During the past ten years efforts have been frequently made to provide for reporting in the United States courts, and in several instances success has almost been reached. A general organization of the stenographers of the country could secure necessary legislation in this direction with but little difficulty, particularly as it would have the backing of several United States judges, who have expressed themselves strongly as to the necessity of stenographic aid in their courts. This is especially the case as to Judge McCrary, of the eighth Circuit.

"Then, too, the interests of the shorthand writer in railroad and express offices, banks and other business houses would be advanced by the proposed organization, standards of proficiency established, and business men would be protected from imposition. The fact should more generally be recognized by the profession that a mere writer of shorthand is not necessarily a valuable member of society, but that, in addition, he should know how to spell, punctuate

and properly paragraph his transcriptions, and also have a general knowledge of grammar, arithmetic and geography, in order to earn a decent salary.

"Of course, there has been some expense incurred in arranging for this convention, in the way of printing, postage, etc. I am informed that the charge of five dollars each for tickets to the banquet to-night will, it is expected, cover the outlay thus far made."

Brown & Holland, Chicago, asked permission to publish the proceedings of the convention in pamphlet form, and agreed to furnish each member of the convention with a copy of the same. On motion permission was granted.

John T. Bell, Omaha, moved that a committee of five be appointed by the president to draft constitution and by-laws for an International Association. The motion was carried, and the following persons were appointed as such committee: John T. Bell, Omaha; T. C. Rose, Ithaca; L. H. Eddy, Denver; J. G. Pomerene, Cleveland, and Helen T. Pierson, Cincinnati.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ADDRESSES ON THE SUBJECT OF SHORTHAND.

ALABAMA.

W. H. Lindsay, Mobile, writes:

"It will afford me great pleasure to be present at the International Convention of Shorthand Writers, and you can count on me, unless detained by some occurrence I do not now anticipate. Use your discretion in placing my name on the program. If done, and I am present, you will know as much as I do about "Shorthand in Alabama," in a few words, for there is a remarkably slow lot of old fogies eking out a miserable existence in this delightful land."

The Secretary stated that he expected to see Mr. Lindsay present during the day.

CALIFORNIA.

Charles A. Sumner, San Francisco, writes:

"I am very sorry, indeed, that the probabilities all run against my attendance at the convention. You can be assured that I would like to be there, but the distance is so great, and the time necessarily occupied in making the trip so long, that I can have no reasonable expectation of being with you. I must say again that I am sorry for it. I hope and trust that the con-

vention will prove a success in every point of view, and anything that I can contribute toward that result will be cheerfully given. Let your deliberations tend to keep up wages for our labor. Prices are too low in most of the Western States; Maine and Iowa rates are disastrous; New York and Illinois are the only States we can quote in our struggles to keep up a fair standard of wages, which we have here."

COLORADO.

W. George Waring, Rico, writes:

"I am sorry to say that my interests at this place will prevent my attending the convention. Will be glad to communicate at a future time respecting "Shorthand in Colorado;" of course it is too late now for present purposes."

Charles W. Reitler, official stenographer, Fourth District, Denver, writes:

"I shall not be able to attend the International Convention in your city, as my court meets in a few days.

"I hope you will succeed in forming an Association, and my best wishes for success are with you. I will endorse anything you do, and shall be pleased to become one of you, as also I think will the following official stenographers, First District, W. R. Scott, Golden; Second Disirict, A. S. Miller, Denver; Fifth District, Mr. Pollock, Silver Cliff; Seventh District, F. C. Webster, Leadville. Please advise me of progress made."

W. R. Scott, official stenographer, First Judicial District, Morrison, writes:

"For your kind invitation to attend the International Convention of Shorthand Writers, I am much obliged (just as much as though I could be present). But I must decline all invitations to go East. I left Chicago eight years ago, suffering from asthma. I am well now, or apparently so, and never intend to take the chances involved in a trip to the East.

"Give my respects to Ritchie, Bennett, Hall, English, Hines, Stone, *et al.*, who may chance to be alive."

John W. Christy, official stenographer, Fifth District, Leadville, writes:

"It would afford me great pleasure to attend the convention, and I regret exceedingly that I will be unable to be there.

"I would respectfully suggest that a by-law or resolution be passed by which "plugs" who hang around and cut rates be "sot down on." Also, that class of men who, in mining parlance, might be termed "jumpers," *i. e.*, when a man goes to a new country, and after several years struggle for bread the office pays a respectable stipend, a sneak comes along and endeavors to undermine the party in office, there being no reason for change on the ground of competency or otherwise."

Arthur S. Miller, official stenographer, Second Judicial District, Denver, writes:

"I regret to have to say that the meeting of the district court here on Monday, the 29th inst., where my presence will be indispensable, will prevent my attending the convention. It would give me great pleasure to be with you, not only to see old acquaintances, but to form new, as well as on account of the interest I feel in the spirit and purposes of the convention. I hope that the convention will be a grand success."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

D. F. Murphy, Congressional stenographer, Washington, writes:

"I regret to say that engagements made before I was aware of the proposed convention at Chicago on the first of September, will prevent my presence there on that occasion.

"I appreciate the importance of such an organization as shall solidify the profession of shorthand writers, and present it in its proper light to the public gaze, and maintain that *esprit de corps* which is essential to the prosperous existence of any profession. I trust the convention will take such steps as will tend to secure these ends."

Robert R. Hitt, Assistant Secretary of State, Washington, writes:

"It would give me great pleasure to be present at the International Convention of Shorthand Writers, to meet on the first of next month, to which your kind note invites me, and where I know I would meet many old friends, at whose elbows I have worked years ago. The number of those engaged in the profession in the city of Chicago has so amazingly increased since the days of small beginnings, twenty-five years ago, that to most of them I would be a stranger. But if they have the same genial disposition and sparkling spirit I have always found among shorthand writers, I know I would receive a cordial welcome, and make many new and pleasant acquaintances.

"The pressure of duties upon me, however, is so great at the present time, and will probably continue for a while, that I have little hopes of being able to absent myself from Washington at the date of the convention If I cannot be present, I beg you to give to any gentlemen who may recollect me an assurance of cordial sympathy in their welfare and in the increase, usefulness and honor of our growing profession."

James O. Clephane, Washington, writes:

"I think well of the movement for an International Convention of Shorthand Writers, and trust that all of the leading reporters of the country who can possibly attend will be present to aid in the object sought to be accomplished by the meeting. It will afford me great pleasure to be present and

become an active participant in the proceedings, if I can make it convenient to leave here at that time.

"This letter, I will state, by way of explanation, was printed on the Stereotypic Printer, by my associate, Miss Camp, at the rate of seventy-five words a minute. Such work can be done and thirty copies furnished at six cents a folio."

Noble E. Dawson, Washington, writes :

"It will afford me the greatest pleasure to be present with you in convention if I can then command the time. However, I have been so much unsettled since my trip to Mexico, that it is impossible now to make any definite engagements, for I am not sure of being here a month hence. In any event, I hope the meeting of shorthand writers will be in every way a success."

J. J. McElhone, chief of official reporters, House of Representatives, Washington, writes :

"While I regret my inability to be present at the convention, I shall hail with pleasure whatever you may be able to do for the enhancement of the science of shorthand, and especially toward the elevation and consolidation of professional shorthand writers in that position of dignity, honor and profit to which their exacting labors and special skill justly entitles them."

DELAWARE.

W. J. Hume, Wilmington, writes :

"I regret to say that it will be impossible for me to be with you in convention this time, but in order that you may know something about 'Shorthand in Delaware," I will say that, although this little spot was asleep, it was not the sleep that knows no waking. Three years ago, when I came into this field, we could only muster about four stenographers. To-day we have at least twenty, to my knowledge, connected with the different branches of industry, and the city is clamoring for more ; in fact, the demand for competent shorthand writers is greater than the supply. Although we are not blessed with an association, from the rapid strides that phonography is taking, I have every reason to believe that the day is not far distant when the little Diamond State will wheel into line, if there is room for her.

"We are far behind in court matters, but then you could not expect anything else from an uncivilized community (for proof of my assertion I refer you to Bob Ingersoll).

"I wish you an enjoyable time, and many of them."

DAKOTA TERRITORY.

F. G. Abbott, official stenographer, Deadwood, writes :

"The time is so short that it will be impossible for me to prepare anything like a satisfactory article upon "Shorthand in Dakota," which I should

have been very happy to do had I been notified earlier. For the same reason I cannot be present at the convention, which I regret exceedingly, as I should be delighted to form the acquaintance of so many brothers of the craft. I am with you in spirit, if not in the flesh, and sincerely hope that your meeting may be both a successful and an enjoyable one."

ILLINOIS.

President Bennett—"Our friend, John Ritchie, expected to be present to tell the convention something about "Shorthand in Illinois," but he has been unavoidably detained on his old tramping ground, Virginia, longer than he expected, and, therefore, is not with us to-day."

INDIANA.

Chas. W. Stagg, Indianapolis, writes:

"In reply to the suggestion that I address the International Convention on 'Shorthand in Indiana,' would say, that there is little of interest to be gleaned from this field. On account of our recent legislation on the subject of shorthand in the courts, there may be some interest felt in this State. We have ninety-two counties embraced in about forty judicial circuits; besides which we have perhaps twenty superior courts, *nisi prius*, and three Federal district courts.

"There are many young men now getting ready for the appointments expected to be made this fall, and we shall be troubled, as some other States have been, with incompetent men.

"I shall undoubtedly be present at the convention, and be glad to give all desired information, hoping in return, from the experience of the representatives of some of the other States, to get some hints as to how the *scrubs* may be gotten rid of. We have only four good law reporters in Indiana now."

W. S. Garber, law reporter, Indianapolis, writes:

"I am not able to say definitely at present whether I can be with you on September 1st, or not. The object in view has my hearty sympathy, and you may rest assured of my earnest co-operation. There is no organization of the shorthand fraternity here, and I fear none is practicable, as we are not as harmonious as we might be on rates and other matters connected with the profession."

Charles P. Watson, law reporter, Indianapolis, writes:

"I have often wished that an association of shorthand writers existed, and I shall certainly be present at the convention if I can arrange my business so that I can leave. If I cannot be present, you may count me in as one of the members, and I will do anything I can to further the interests of the Association in this State."

Paul C. Hendricks, official reporter, Indianapolis, writes:

"I would like very much to be present at the convention on September 1st, and if my engagements will permit, will be. I am very much in favor of some united action on the part of the reporters of this country that will protect and advance their interests, and in case I cannot attend, I shall watch your proceedings with great interest."

IOWA.

C. A. Mosier, official stenographer, Des Moines, writes:

"I regard it a duty I owe myself, if I did not care for the fraternity at large, to meet with the live members of the profession that I belong to, though I may, like one Peter, 'follow afar off.'

"I have managed to hold my position as reporter of the courts here for over seventeen years continuously, although not without some lively fights with the world, the flesh pots of politics and the devil. This last entity always seems to come around about election time. I shall attempt to come down to the I. C. of S. W., and I do not know of anything except court business that will prevent my succeeding."

C. H. Sholes, official reporter, Council Bluffs, writes:

"I would like to attend the convention on September 1st, and shall try and make my business arrangements comply therewith.

"Our State Association has collapsed. No meetings have been held for two years, and no efforts have since been made to maintain it."

E. V. Hayden, official reporter, Waterloo, writes:

"I regret very much that circumstances will be such with me that I cannot attend the convention. I have been in the shorthand business quite a while, my sympathies are with the profession, and I should be very glad to meet with them in convention, and hope to do so at some future time."

W. S. Briggs, official reporter, Ottumwa, writes:

"I am emphatically in favor of the convention of shorthand writers. There are many reasons that will suggest themselves to the professional reporter or experienced phonographer why it should be held; and a permanent organization ought to be effected. I will be present if I can.

"Reporting in this section of the country is slow business. Fees are regulated by law at six dollars per day for attendance on court, and six cents per hundred words of transcript, and then it is optional with the judges whether an appointment is made. I was official reporter for six years, and then we got a judge of a different school of politics, and he refused to make an appointment; and although he dare not appoint anybody else over me without incurring the dissatisfaction of the entire bar of the district (and I do all the work that is done), he only allows me for time actually engaged at work at six dollars per day, but not for attendance, and I get fees the best way I can. I have stood it two years and more, and perhaps can stand it through

this term, though it is but starvation rates, and I would much prefer a paying situation, if I could get a permanent 'sit' some other place. Another drawback is that the judges appoint whom they please, irrespective of qualifications; *e. g.*, the official reporter of our circuit court is a boy of thirteen summers, whose speed is not over one hundred words a minute. After ten years of hard work, I confess I am not very well satisfied with the present status of my surroundings. There is no deposition work, nor outside work enough to pay stationery bills, but the business is almost exclusively confined to the court room."

KENTUCKY.

Chas. A. Graham, official reporter, Louisville, writes :

"I am very sorry to say that it will be out of my power to be present at the convention in September, as I have some very important matters coming up about that time.

"There is very little to be said on the subject of 'Shorthand in Kentucky.' Official reporting is about nine years old in this State, and is greatly favored here, but has never been very much extended beyond this city. Of course, important cases in the interior are reported often by consent, but not officially. I personally have not sought to extend the law, as I have all I can attend to here, with the special cases that I am employed in outside.

"I would be glad to have the convention know that my best wishes are with them, and I regret my inability to be present. If a permanent organization is effected, I would be glad to have my name enrolled as a member."

MASSACHUSETTS.

W. O. Robson, Boston, writes :

"If I had known of the convention earlier I would have been glad to have arranged my vacation so as to be present.

"We have no association here, and there is so little mingling of members of the profession among each other socially, that sometimes I feel as if I would like to see a gathering of the fraternity, and judge whether they are as cross and ugly looking as I sometimes feel after working two or three nights in succession, with no sleep and little to eat. I should enjoy the banquet especially, as I seldom get time to eat anything in this bustling country."

Frank G. Drake, Boston, writes :

"It will be impossible for me to be present at the convention, but I trust that some one from among us will be able to attend and represent this end of the State. I have no doubt that it will be of great interest and profit to the profession in many ways, and I hope your earnest and admirable appeal will stir up shorthand writers to a full appreciation of the many advantages

to the profession which such a convention will offer. I exceedingly regret that my business engagements are such as will not permit of my personally contributing my mite to the occasion.

"I wish the affair the success which it deserves."

MARYLAND.

Eugene L. Didier, Baltimore, writes:

"Shorthand writers are almost as scarce in Maryland as snakes in Ireland. Baltimore has always been more famous for her beautiful women than for intelligent men, and while the fair daughters of the Monumental City have adorned the courts of Europe by their loveliness, her sons have not adorned the courts of Maryland by their phonographic skill.

"With a population of three or four hundred thousand, Baltimore has only three or four professional shorthand writers, and, judging from their business, it is not likely that any of them will become millionaires. The people are excessively conservative, and the business of the courts goes on generally after the slow manner of the 'good old times'.

"Besides the professionals, there are a half dozen shorthand clerks in the railroad offices in the city, where the work is hard, the salary small, and promotion rare.

"There is not a shorthand reporter regularly employed on any Baltimore newspaper, and very seldom are the services of a stenographer required by any of them. Ten years ago the present writer reported for the New York Herald the sermon of a newly installed archbishop of Baltimore. When the Herald reached the city next morning with a full report of the sermon, the editor of the Baltimore Sun, which had published but a meager outline, sent for me, and said he wished me to consider myself as the regular stenographer of the paper, to be paid only for work actually done. The position is undoubtedly one of great *honor*, but has not yet paid a cent of *profit*.

"In 1867 the Maryland legislature passed an act requiring judges of the superior, circuit and orphan's courts of Baltimore to appoint official stenographers in those courts. Under this act the present writer was appointed the stenographer of the orphan's court. The law provides that whenever there is a plenary proceeding, and either party gives notice of his intention to carry the case to the court of appeals of Maryland, then it is the duty of the presiding judge of the orphan's court to require the attendance of the official stenographer, who shall be paid eight dollars per day for each day of actual attendance, and ten cents a folio for transcribing the testimony taken. The position was formerly tolerably lucrative, but the amiable gentleman who now presides over the orphan's court discourages litigation, and has been so successful in settling legal differences amicably, without having recourse to the law, that for the last twelve months the official stenographer has not been once in attendance on the court. The judges of the other courts of Baltimore which were required by law to appoint stenographers, declined to comply, upon the ground that the business did not justify them in doing so.

"Within the last three years, however, one of the judges of the superior court became so infirm by age and deafness, and one of the supernumaries of the court having died, a live stenographer was appointed in the place of the dead bailiff, receiving the same salary, but doing the shorthand work only. In addition to his regular salary, fifteen hundred dollars a year, he is well paid for writing out arguments, testimony, &c., and makes a good thing out of the position, while enjoying four months holiday every year.

"Such, in brief, is the present condition of shorthand in Maryland."

MICHIGAN.

Thos. I. Daniel, Jackson, said:

"*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Stenographic Profession:*

"The letters which the celebrated French writer, Edmond About, uses for his name, but which under English pronunciation becomes *About*, and signifies approximately, will be a salient feature in what I have to tell you to-day about shorthand in Michigan. It will be *about* this time, *about* that time, *about* so many, and, in fact, *about* everything.

"I have spent the past six weeks in cultivating the acquaintance of bass, pickerel and trout, and incidentally of big biceps, sun-brown, callous hands and boils in the region of Petoskey, Michigan. If the saying be true that boils are worth five dollars apiece, I am fifteen dollars better off than I was two weeks ago. Of course I have been insulated from all data necessary to properly treat this subject. Through imperfect postal communication, my task has also been made more difficult by the shortness of the time since I knew I was expected to say anything on this subject. These thoughts, gathered on my way here on the trains, must necessarily be flying thoughts, and will not rise to the dignity of an address.

"So much by way of introduction.

"About the year 1868 shorthand was successfully grafted into Michigan, in the Wayne circuit court of Detroit, by Mr. Bartlett, of the firm of Ely, Burnham & Bartlett, of Chicago.

"Just before this, and on the occasion of Andrew Johnson's swing 'round the circle, two or three phonographic exotics were exhibited on the balcony of the Biddle House, in Detroit, who excited the admiration of at least one person in the vast audience below. I had boyish conceit enough then, however, with my hundred words a minute, to think that I could report Grant and Francis Train, at least. Grant's was one of those laconic replies to a call from the audience, which is summed up in an appearance before a window, a bow and a disappearance. Train's speech was so full of ribaldry that the *Chicago Times* would have blushed into red paper to have published it. Of course, in either case I would escape the copying, and all I would need to do to report them would be to sit and fag after them, like Copperfield and Traddles, until they sat down. But when it came to the President of the United States, pitching into his immaculate Congress, the reporter who stood up with his back to the audience and his note-book in his hand, and reported him, the

notice that it all had to be copied staring out of every word, in my eyes was a true Brobdignagian.

"When I was a very small boy, I vividly remember being chased by a flock of geese, and to the present day it seems as though they were the largest my eyes ever beheld. At Central Park, in New York, I first saw swans, and the thought came to my mind at once that those were the very fellows that chased me when I was a little boy. In analogy, those reporters who reported the speeches of Johnson, Seward, Francis Train, and others, look to me even now as the finest representatives of the art I have ever seen. I understood they came from Chicago, and should not wonder if one of them was here. If I should see him, and find that he was no larger than common men, I would begin to think that possibly the geese that chased me when a lad were no larger than geese now-a-days.

"Well, to resume. According to my recollection, Mr. Bartlett plied his pen *about* one year in Detroit. 'That other disciple,' as one of the apostles modestly speaks of himself, was then in the swaddling bands of the art, and played second fiddle, in the character of amanuensis. Finding it to his interests to return to the Sucker State, Mr. Bartlett went East, casting about for some person to take his Wolverine shoes and wear them. They were found to fit Mr. Chas. Flowers, of New York, a man who has ever since worn them. Ostensibly he has done the work, but, in fact, mainly through officially unshod proxies. In fact, unless there was a big, exciting case on, with two or three daily copies to be made, Mr. Flowers hated to work at all. I have no doubt he often wished he had a nose as long as a rail, so that he could turn it up, and express all the disgust he felt with the business.

"Until the meeting of the legislature of 1869 the compensation of stenographers was ten dollars per day for actual attendance, and only those who wanted their cases reported employed them; the copying was extra, ten cents per folio. At this time the general stenographers' law was passed, fixing the salary for Wayne county at $2,000 per year, and giving the boards of supervisors of any other counties power to make the law operative with them at any sum not exceeding that amount. Now came the scramble for office of the stenographers, full-fledged and pin-feathered. Mr. Flowers was the first appointee under the law, for the court he had already filled, Wayne circuit. He imported and entered into a copartnership with J. B. Nichols, of Virginia, an old college chum. Mr. Bartlett's amanuensis was also engaged, while Messrs. Swift and O'Brien, who will figure more prominently hereafter, entered as students. Permit a reminiscence here. One of the favorite pastimes of some of the office was the composing of Graham's lists of abbreviations into connected sentences, with the addition of the fewest words possible. This resulted in the production of sentences like the following, which for difficult reporting was considered good: 'Reconnoitering on a red-hot Russian rampart after multifarious repulses, is enough to non-suit the most mulish mountebank or outlawed miscreant, be he moustached musician or nude offspring of a nameless parson. On parade, he will find like a rapturous race horse, the rehearsal of whose notoriety is the monosyllable oratory of pertinacious recreants, who rendezvous in the reservoir of rascality.'

"The appointment of Mr. Flowers was followed in quick succession by those of Henry F. Walch, Silas P. Goodale, Geo. F. Hitchcock and J. B. Nichols, taking in the largest cities and best circuits of the State, some of these getting two circuits, and employing help for what they were unable to do with their own hands. From time to time, as new stenographers mushroomed up, the minor circuits were filled. The positions mentioned remained without disturbance until about 1873, when the superior court of Detroit was created, with provision for a stenographer the same as in the circuit court. Mr. Nichols lassoed that, dissolved with Mr. Flowers, and resigned his original appointment of the fourth circuit and one other which he had subsequently acquired. The first named was filled by the Bartlett amanuensis, the second by Mr. George Gatrell, and all three positions have remained since without change.

"Soon after this Messrs. Whitaker and Maitland formed a co-partnership with Mr. Flowers, and carried on business for a year or two. Mr. Charles Swift, above referred to, a son of Recorder Swift, having become proficient, obtained the appointment for the recorder's court. Mr. O'Brien, who had been Mr. Nichols' most formidable rival for the superior court, took his departure for Grand Rapids, where he obtained employment with some of that city's stenographers. Mr. Flowers had all along been giving a good deal of spare time to the reading of law, and about '76 or '77 was admitted to the Detroit bar, entering at once upon active practice. This he has continued until the present time, having been at the last general election made circuit court commissioner, quite a lucrative office in Detroit.

"Some year or so after Mr. Swift's appointment as stenographer of the recorder's court, and in the midst of the trial of a case, he was informed that the board of supervisors had cut his salary down from $1,200 to $1,000; so he stopped as short as did 'my grandfather's clock' in the song, and stayed just as stopped. He then looked to see what Kent, Blackstone, Chitty and others had been saying about law, and a year or so after Mr. Flowers' admission followed him to the bar, and is now quite a lawyer. His resigned position was then taken by Mr. O'Brien before mentioned, who, I think, has since held it

"About '74 or '75 Grand Rapids discovered a new star, with satellites, in the person of Melbourne H. Ford, and within the following two or three years co-partnerships were formed between Messrs. Walch & Hitchcock, Walch, Ford & Hitchcock, and Walch & Ford, doing a large reporting business, and absorbing many of the counties about Grand Rapids, upon the ten dollars per day plan of compensation. However, these co-partnerships have all vanished like clouds after a storm, and the position of *statu quo* returned. (The simile is not intended to reach so far as to carry the impression that there was any storm producing this change.) Mr. Ford is official stenographer for the Grand Rapids superior court, Mr. Walch for the circuit court, and as well United States court commissioner. Mr. Hitchcock's place in Kalamazoo has been taken by Mr. Langley, formerly of St. Jo. County, but I believe the former has several counties and a lawsuit for his pay in Van Buren to attend to in that locality yet, but just what his status is is to your orator indefinite. Mr. Ford also has appointments for a number of counties outside of Grand Rapids, and

employs assistants. Like Messrs. Flowers and Swift, he has been admitted to the bar, but unlike them, prefers shorthand as a business.

"About '77 or '78 Mr. Silas Goodale, the official stenographer at Saginaw, failed in health, and found it necessary to remove to a colder climate. This he found at Marquette, in the upper peninsula, whither he removed, and where he now resides. His position at Saginaw is now occupied by a gentleman whom I have never met. On Sunday last I inquired of Judge Moore, the former judge of the circuit, for his name, but the nearest he could come to it was to say he was a gentleman with a large nose.

"In 1879 some of the larger judicial circuits were made smaller, and *vice versa* with the smaller. This added two or three to the number of circuits. The applications of stenographers for one of these positions numbered twenty-two, so it is plain that mushroom seed is not exhausted. It was during this session of the legislature that our stenographic pulse went up to 130, temperature 101.9, respiration 22, caused by the introduction of bills making it explicit that stenographers should not have pay for copying. A convention was called, and a State Association formed, with a working committee to look after the proposed legislation. The committee succeeded in preventing any legislation on the subject, being the best they could do. Mr. Flowers was the President of the Association; and your servant Secretary and Treasurer. A constitution and by-laws were drafted and printed, which provided for yearly meetings, but since that time no meeting has been held. That convention consisted of the following ten persons: Messrs. Hitchcock, Walch, Spaulding, Stockwell, Harrison, King, Wardwell, Clark and Daniel.

"Ex-Governor Bagley (and, by the way, ex-Bagley now altogether) once became huffed at the whole fraternity because of the indiscretion of one, who charged for testimony furnished where a pardon was applied for. He took the pains to find out how much the State had paid to stenographers during the year, and in his last message to the legislature, at the end of the judiciary recommendations, he appended this sententious paragraph—'The State has paid to stenographers this year $22,000.' This from him was as much as to say '*there* is a leak in the ship of state that should be stopped.' However, either because it was too small to be seen, or because the same majority was present who defeated him for the United States Senate, it produced no harm to us.

"The official reporters of Michigan that I recollect are: Messrs. Whitaker, Maitland, O'Brien, Walch, Hitchcock, Haines, Ford, Langley, Goodale, McNamara, Daniel, Goodrich, Gatrell, Stockwell and Knapp. There are also a lady reporter at Muskegon, and the gentleman of keen scent at Saginaw. Besides these official reporters, there are also Messrs. King, Dement, Erlin, Smith, Carlisle, Coffin, Scougal, Clark, Edmund, Daniel and Wilcox. However, the harvest has been abundant, and I would not be surprised if I had left some cream on the milk in this skimming.

"I think the lady at Muskegon is the only female representative of the art in the State who reports in court. I have not the honor of her acquaintance, but I have the idea that she is a charming woman, from the fact that her name

and my recollection have eloped together, making it impossible for me to give it to you to-day.

"The *Detroit Post and Tribune* and the *Lansing Republican* are the only newspapers I know of in the State who employ competent stenographers. The former is represented by Mr. Erlin, and the latter by Mr. King, and both gentlemen are ornaments to the profession.

"A stenographic comet was visible for quite a period in our western sky. in the person of Mr. E. C. Hoyt, but my double million magnifying gas microscopes of extra power have been unable to discern it of late; consequently, I can give no information on the subject, but will thankfully receive any that may be offered.

"This embraces all I have been able to think of which would be in any way interesting upon the subject, and while as an address it is not by any means as complete and satisfactory as the definition of a sphere, I hope the circumstances will make the apology acceptable."

J. S. Harrison, official stenographer, Adrian, telegraphs:

"Illness prevents my attendance at the convention. My entire sympathies are with the movement."

J. W. King, Lansing, writes:

"I regret that I cannot be present at the convention. Editorial duties confine me closely. Count on me, however, to do all in my power in aid of the useful and beautiful art."

Henry F. Walch, official stenographer, Grand Rapids, writes:

"I am unable to say at this time whether I shall be able to attend the convention, or not. Will do so if business is such that I can leave here at that time."

George Maitland, Detroit, writes:

"If it is at all possible, I will be in Chicago on the 1st of September, but whether I am or not, you can depend upon my best support and heartiest approval of any well devised means for the general good of the profession.

"You may also set me down for a pro rata share of the expenses."

S. W. Goodale, official stenographer, Marquette, writes:

"While it is impossible for me to join you at the convention, I cannot let this opportunity pass without assuring you of my hearty approval of the movement. I think the scheme a good one, and if the proper course is taken, much good may be accomplished. Nothing but official duties, which I cannot postpone, prevent me from being with you.

"I hope this is only the beginning of many such gatherings, and that I may have the pleasure of meeting with you on some future occasion."

MISSOURI.

Frank Kraft, law reporter, St. Louis, writes:

"I enclose you herewith the widow's mite; it may do to fill a gap somewhere, and it may not. I have but a few days since had a renewal of my

nervous attack, which has left me in a state of mind and body scarcely to be envied. You may count on me for a share of expenses. I am breast and soul with you in this movement; it has been a pet measure of mine for years, and it hurts like pulling of teeth that I can't now be among the pioneers."

MINNESOTA.

F. L. Moffett, Minneapolis, writes:

"Being unable, from the press of circumstances, to attend the convention of shorthand writers to be held in Chicago September 1st, and answer to my name in behalf of the fraternity in this State, I will, as you suggest, write a brief account of the condition and prospects of the stenographers who are now here, and the inducements, or otherwise, which are held out to those who live elsewhere to come here.

"Shorthand writers are not employed in this State to any extent outside of the two cities, St. Paul and Minneapolis, and, indeed, there is room for the employment of many more in these two places. In regard to shorthand, Minnesota is yet in its infancy, and of course it will take some time to develop it. But the people here are well disposed, and take kindly to anything which fills a want, and they are finding that a shorthand writer is a most desirable person to have, and, in fact, is fast becoming indispensable.

"At St. Paul every considerable business house employs a stenographer. As a rule, the salaries paid are fair, but there is more or less room for improvement in that respect. About $75 is the average salary, but I know of two or three cases where the compensation amounts to from $110 to $125.

"In all the departments of the many railroad offices in St. Paul, stenographers earn their daily bread, and I am inclined to believe that the pay is better, and the positions occupied more in keeping with the dignity of the profession, than are those of the business houses

"The increase of the employment of shorthand writers as amanuenses in St. Paul during the past year has been very gratifying to those interested. The demand has been of such a nature that an enterprising firm of shorthand men have opened a school of shorthand, where stenographers are turned out with enterprising rapidity, and I understand that, as an inducement to learn the mysteries of the art, every one who takes a course is guaranteed a situation at the conclusion thereof. This school is the only one exclusively shorthand in the State. Shorthand is taught somewhat in one or two of the business colleges.

"Minneapolis, being not nearly as commercial a city as St. Paul, and at the same time much younger, is not, of course, so good a point for the shorthand man. The demand for stenographers is not constant. It is only a question of time, however, when this city will be as much of a shorthand center as the saintly city.

"At the present time there are about fifteen 'slaves' here, which, of itself, is not a very great showing, but when the fact becomes known that there were but one or two a year ago it merges into quite a showing after all.

"As to salaries in Minneapolis, I will say that there is no particular standard; as a general thing the stenographers receive reasonable pay, but there are no 'soft snaps' lying about.

"Court and other reporters abound in this region, but to a certain limited extent. We have in this State twelve court districts and a sort of an extra court of common pleas for Ramsey County, in which St. Paul is located. Each district judge appoints a reporter, who serves for $10 per day of actual service, and who receives, extra, fifteen cents per folio for transcriptions, except the court in Ramsey County. The reporter of that court receives $1,500 per year. The law is similar to that of many other States.

"All the reporting for the newspapers is done by court reporters or stenographers who are engaged upon other business. Sometimes it is easy and sometimes it is hard to secure the services of a shorthand man for these odd jobs.

"The future of the art in this region depends somewhat upon its devotees, and I am strongly inclined to think that, if no opportunities are wasted, St. Paul and Minneapolis will be considered unequaled points for the shorthand writer, no matter what branch of the profession he practices.

MANITOBA.

A. Boyle, Winnipeg, writes:

"I am sorry to inform you that it will be absolutely impossible for me to be present at the convention. I wish it may be productive of good results."

NEW JERSEY.

Rowel & Hickcox, publishers *American Shorthand Writer*, Vineland, writes:

"We regret that we shall probably be unable to attend the convention, because we move to Boston September 1st; however, we shall be glad to help along the good work to the best of our ability."

NEW YORK.

Andrew J. Graham, New York City, writes:

"I am sorry to say that it will be impossible for me to attend the convention. I hope you may all have a good time, and that the true interests of the phonographic art and of phonographers may be advanced by your deliberations."

J. E. Munson, New York City, writes:

"I arranged to be present with you in convention on September 8th, but the change to September 1st will put it out of my power to do as I desired. It is my intention to visit your city early in September. I hope the

convention will be successful, and that it will do good to the profession. I think stenographers have in the past made the mistake of not organizing enough. If we do not work together, there are many points at which we are sure to be beaten. I could cite instances where the shorthand writers of New York have been heavy losers, simply because they did not present a united and bold front."

D. P. Lindsley, New York City, writes:

"I am glad to see the movement for an International convention and organization, and hope that it will succeed. I shall recommend the writers of tachygraphy, some of whom are found in your city, to take part in it. You have my best wishes for the success of your movement."

T. C. Leland, New York City, writes:

"I should be most happy to be present at the convention, but am not able to say at this date whether I can or not. I have to be in Chicago, to attend another convention, on September 30th, and do not see how I can go twice. I may, however, conclude that I can occupy the interval between with pleasure and profit, and, in that case, could be with you."

B. Moynahan, New York City, writes:

"I regret, for my own sake, to say that I cannot be with you in convention. The announcement of an ordinary shorthand meeting would give me pleasure, but when you add it is to be an International convention, and that that convention is to be held in Chicago, then indeed does my cup of human bliss o'erflow, and great must be the inducement to keep me away from such a gathering. However, I have recently taken a large job on hand, which will keep me going the balance of the summer, and probably for some time to come, and not thinking it advisable to put another shorthand man in my place, I will have to deny myself the pleasure of listening to the gathered wisdom and experience of your meeting. I know you will have a good time, and I hope for some good, sound, practical results from such a gathering."

S. C. Rogers, official stenographer, Troy, writes:

"I am unable to gratify my desire to be present at the convention. I am heartily in sympathy with the movement, and with any effort that may advance the profession, and I trust the gathering may be large, and its acts harmonious and fruitful to the greatest extent."

Wm. H. Osgoodby, law stenographer, Rochester, writes:

"Though I am unable to attend the convention, I wish to express my interest in the work which this interchange of opinions will inaugurate. The stenographic profession is steadily winning its way to honorable recognition, and the influence of an association like that which you now propose to organize may be of the greatest importance to us all. We who are now in the ranks, however, are but the pioneers of the profession, and I trust that the work we shall do may tend to produce a lasting effect upon the future. That that effect may be good I confidently hope."

A. P. Little, official stenographer, Rochester, writes :

"I regret very much my inability to attend the convention. I hope and trust the result of your efforts may be the effecting of a permanent organization which will work for the benefit of us all. Our experience in this State teaches us that a State organization is of very great importance, and I cannot see why an International organization will not be equally beneficial."

M. Jeannette Ballantyne, stenographer surrogate court, Rochester, writes :

"The stenographers assembled have my heartfelt sympathy and earnest co-operation in every effort put forth for the advancement of the cause."

NEW BRUNSWICK.

C. W. Treadwell, St. John, writes :

"In New Brunswick shorthand is only now beginning to be recognized as an art that is worthy of cultivation. We have had at times some spasmodic attempts to get it introduced into our courts. The most determined attempt was made last year, when one of the judges of the supreme court expressed as his opinion that shorthand reporters introduced into our courts would prove a great blessing to judges, witnesses, juries, and everybody interested in the trials, save money to the county, and in every way facilitate the administration of justice. We had last year a case tried the evidence in which was taken by shorthand writers. It was the second trial of the case, and a comparison between it and the first trial showed the great superiority of the shorthand system. But the lawyers, while admitting that it would be a good thing to have, go no further, while the government of this Province is in no hurry just now to make any appropriation for the purpose. The great cry now is that the money of the Province is being wasted, and the government does not feel like making any expensive experiments in the face of the general election, which will be held next year. So we need not expect to see anything done by the government in the way of introducing the system into our courts until after the general election. But the merits of the system are beginning to become apparent to the public. A case is now being heard before the judge in equity, the evidence of which is being, by the suggestion of the judge, taken by a shorthand writer. In fact, the judge refused to hear the case unless this was done. Last session an important debate in the legislative council of this Province was reported and published by your correspondent. A shorthand writer was taken from this city a few days ago to report the proceedings of a Baptist convention in Nova Scotia, and he is now busy preparing his report for the press. So, altogether, the prospect is encouraging. The cause has an earnest advocate in the phonographic editor of the '*Printer's Miscellany*,' a work devoted to the publication of matters interesting especially to printers, but which devotes a good deal of space to phonography as well. I allude to Mr. T. Wm. Bell, a gentleman who will be known by name at least to several members of the convention, and who has done good work in advocating the

cause of phonography in the Province of New Brunswick. Mr. Bell is a very fast writer of Graham's system. He is an enthusiastic Grahamite. There are several writers of Scovil's system in this city. This latter system was invented by a resident of this Province."

T. William Bell, phonographic editor "*Printer's Miscellany*," St. John, writes:

"Unfortunately, I am suffering most severely under the weight of about 1,647 tons (avoirdupois) of busy business, and can't possibly extricate myself to attend your 'World's Fair' on the first of September. I sincerely hope the meeting will be well attended."

ONTARIO.

Frank Yeigh, Toronto, writes:

"As Ontario is the banner Province of the Dominion in point of population, social advancement and popular education, so is she the banner Province on the line of phonography. The use of shorthand to any extent among us dates back only a few years, but since that time it has undergone a rapid development and healthy growth that is truly remarkable. The chief impetus given to the art was through the means of the Ontario Law Society some four years ago, when they obtained from the Attorney-General, the Hon. Oliver Mowat, and his cabinet the sanction to appoint law reporters for the superior courts, more as an experiment than otherwise. Three or four were then appointed, and the system has proven so beneficial and satisfactory that their ranks have been supplemented by a further detachment, until now every superior court judge is provided with his own reporter. The staff, it is needless to say, comprises some of the best reporters to be found either in Canada or the States. Their salaries, however, are comparatively low, ranging from $1,200 to $1,500 a year, with ten cents a folio for copying, although their time is not fully occupied by their work. This has led to the appointment of reporters, also, for all the leading county courts of the Province, who are paid at the rate of five dollars per day, and ten cents a folio for copying.

"In newspaper work, too, considerable progress can be noted. While the principal Canadian dailies have utilized shorthand for years past, still each year they produce fuller and more correct parliamentary and news reports, a result which can be traced to a certain degree to the improved phonographers, if such a term can be used, that are springing up.

"Parliamentary work demands a word here, although I shall leave all reference to the Dominion *Hansard* staff to my Quebec *confrere*, and shall confine myself to its use in the local house. Here the cabinet ministers, six in number, are each supplied with a private shorthand secretary, at salaries of $1,000 a year each, while the daily newspaper staffs occupy the reporter's gallery, with a view to serving up the gist of the debates and arguments for their readers.

"In conclusion, I will refer briefly to the use of shorthand for general purposes. I find that as one of the results of the spreading of the winged

art, 'the private secretary' has sprung into existence, and now he may be found in the wholesale warehouse, the lawyer's den, the merchant's office, and even the editor's sanctum. A brisk demand for a short season soon brought its accompanying evils. Scores of aspirants for what appeared to be fat offices and snug sinecures sprang up like so many mushrooms, and fifty words a minute writers, who accepted positions at any price, have somewhat damaged the high character and appreciation of shorthand that the business community hold. But in spite of these inevitable drawbacks, we in Ontario can truly say that our phonographic lines have fallen to us in pleasant offices, and all our paths are tolerably straight."

A. J. Henderson, Toronto, writes :

"Apart from the fact that International conventions are now the order of the day, I do most heartily approve of the projected conference, which, if crowned with the results which ought to flow from such a gathering, cannot fail to be of inestimable advantage to the whole shorthand community of the continent. Our Fall circuits open on September 5th, and I find that other matters unavoidably require my presence in the city in the meantime. This will keep me away from the meeting, which I would have had great pleasure in attending. Let me say how much I wish that it may be a well attended and harmonious gathering, and that the harvest may prove worthy of the seed, the ground upon which it is cast and the sower."

OHIO.

Geo. W. Hardacre, official stenographer, Cincinnati, writes :

"I would be glad to be at the convention, and would certainly be if possible. I sail for Europe on July 2d, and will not return before the middle of September. I am in cordial sympathy with the movement, and have at times thought of originating the matter myself. I hereby place myself in the hands of the boys, to be elected a member, and whatever is to pay I will send you on my return. Please have me enrolled for future meetings. I would be most happy to meet the people who will be at the organization. I know many of them personally. I hope the movement will be entirely successful."

PENNSYLVANIA.

Frank P. Tupper, official reporter, Towanda, writes :

"As it is impossible for me to attend the International Convention on September 1st, and discuss in person the topic assigned me in the program, I will give you in this way the most salient points of 'Shorthand Reporting in Pennsylvania.'

"The proceedings of the State legislature have been reported for many years, and published in the *Daily Legislative Record*, under contract with the State. The constitutional convention of 1873 was also reported in full by an able corps of stenographers. But bench and bar have been very slow to adopt the

shorthand method of doing business in the courts. Pittsburgh eventually secured a special law, and the most important cases only were reported in Philadelphia, by purely private employment. The first general law was passed in 1874. It gave the judges of the State power to appoint stenographers at their discretion, the fee to be ten dollars per day during actual service in court, and fifty cents per one hundred words for transcribing notes so taken. The secret of this munificent compensation was simply this, the Philadelphia reporters, who were few in number and charged large fees, thought they could make more money without a law than they could with one; so they procured the insertion of the provision in regard to fifty cents a folio, thinking that it would be the slaughter of the entire bill. But it passed, notwithstanding, and soon the State swarmed with young reporters from New York, in hot pursuit of these fifty cent places. A few of the more persistent and intelligent ones were appointed, after a considerable amount of preliminary education of judges and lawyers. But the fifty cent business turned out to be substantially a whited sepulchre. The law of 1874 provided that the ten dollar *per diem* fee was to be paid by the county, but left the fifty cents per folio to be paid by parties or counsel ordering transcripts of the stenographer; providing, also, with satanic ingenuity, that in case the court ordered a case written out, the transcript should be furnished free of charge. The natural result was that in most cases the order came from the court, and the reporter's pay came from nowhere.

"In 1875 I made arrangements to report the proceedings of the State senate for the *Legislative Record*, and held the position for three years, residing at Harrisburg. In the meantime I devoted myself assiduously, in connection with others, to the work of building up the business of law reporting in the State. In the winter of 1876 we procured the passage of an amended act, which provided the same *per diem* as the old law, and reduced the rate per folio to a figure which a man with any regard for the hereafter might venture to charge, namely, fifteen cents; at the same time providing that the county should pay for transcripts in most cases. The act does not say just that, to be sure, but that is the practical effect of it. Anything ordered by the court is paid for by the county, and also transcripts of cases which are required to be printed for use in the supreme court, even without an order; and in some counties it is not held to be necessary to procure an order of court at all, and bills are collected without any approval by the judge. Of course no stenographer would be allowed such latitude if he were inclined to abuse the discretion thus vested in him.

"In 1876 and 1877 Mr. E. D. York and myself reported most of the famous 'Mollie Maguire' cases, and transcribed them for the supreme court, under the new act. The stenographic work done in these cases had a great effect in removing the prejudices of the legal fraternity against the innovation of shorthand reporting. It was obvious to all that many months of time and many thousand dollars were saved thereby. Judges became more willing to appoint, and some who were unwilling or lukewarm were forced to appoint by a petition of two-thirds of the members of the bar, for the amended act (as I forgot to mention in proper connection) made it mandatory upon the court to appoint upon the filing of such a petition. The latest information I have

upon the subject is that stenographers are now appointed in fifty-three out of the sixty-eight counties of the State, under the act of 1876. Excluding Allegheny County (in which Pittsburgh is situated), already in operation under special act, and Philadelphia, where no appointments have been made, owing to a division of sentiment on the subject, not only among judges and lawyers, but among reporters themselves, the dozen counties remaining unsupplied are mostly small ones, where the business is so light as to be hardly worth looking after. We are sometimes called into such counties when the business is especially important.

"Stenographic reporting in this State is made very hard work in some counties, on account of long hours of court, and also because our lawyers and judges expect of a stenographer the exercise of considerable discretion in many matters relating to the practice of his profession. He is treated, in short, not so much as a machine (lamentably the tendency in the cities), as like an intelligent member of the bar, who has brains as well as fingers, and understands the points of every case he reports. But while this exacts from the stenographer unusual diligence, it is a compliment to the profession, and he considers it such, and would not have it otherwise.

"And now a word about the Pennsylvania Stenographic Association. It originated in 1877, at Harrisburg. A few of us, friends and co-workers, became greatly incensed at a gross act of professional discourtesy and indecency perpetrated by an alleged stenographer. We decided to put some sort of a badge upon ourselves to distinguish us from that kind of a creature. So we made a verbal agreement that we would behave decently toward one another, and put our names upon a common card, under the head of the Pennsylvania Stenographic Association. We were seven at the outset, I believe. The little band has grown slowly, as we have become acquainted with other stenographers throughout the State, and have found them to be decent fellows and competent reporters. We have preferred to grow in this slow but satisfactory way, rather than to invite all who claim to be stenographers to join us, indiscriminately. We do not claim that there is any special virtue in our anointing. There are many reporters outside of the Association who have excellent reputations, and we hope to increase our membership by the gathering in of such from year to year.

"Our organization is very simple—no constitution, only a few concise by-laws; only one executive officer, a Secretary or Manager; no test of speed, or red tape of any kind. I was the first Secretary, and after me came Mr. E. D. York, already referred to; and now he has left the State to take a good position in Washington, and I am left to take charge of the books until our annual meeting, next month.

"You have my best wishes for the complete success of the International Convention."

Henry C. Demming, official stenographer, Harrisburg, writes:

"It now seems that all hopes of reaching Chicago in time for convention are blasted. I wish to say, however, that if I can be of any service to the Association, when formed, I will most cheerfully comply with any reasonable

request. An association properly organized ought to be of great benefit to every honest stenographer in the land, and a stimulus to every incompetent to become what will prove to be a help instead of a curse to our profession. Whatever you do, let not the work be half done, but such as will redound to the credit of all. Raise the standard high, though it may compel an immense majority to scratch for months, and possibly for years, to reach it. As to Pennsylvania, if the 'boys' cannot be with you in person, depend upon it they are with you at heart, and will most cheerfully second whatever you may do toward building up our noble art-science."

QUEBEC.

Jas. Crankshaw, Montreal, writes :

"I have just returned from England, and the time is too short now, or I should be very glad to attend the International Convention of Shorthand Writers. I shall be glad to receive information with regard to the International Association, the organization of which is one of the objects of the convention. In fact, you may count upon me as a member, in advance, of such an association. I wish the convention unbounded success."

William Wainwright, assistant manager Grand Trunk Railway, Montreal, writes :

"I very much regret that the pressure of my duties at the present time will make it quite impossible for me to attend the convention. You have my best wishes for a pleasant meeting, and I hope it will have a very good and beneficial effect."

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Edward Carroll, Jr., Charleston, writes :

"In Charleston there is only one official appointment. This is a State appointment, and the only appointment in the State. The reporter receives $2,500 per annum, and is allowed twenty cents per folio for the transcript of his notes. The *News and Courier* employ a shorthand man (the official reporter), at a fair salary. Messrs. Robertson, Taylor & Co. employ a first-class man as their correspondent. The deputy clerk in the United States circuit court is also a stenographer. There is only one law reporter's office in the city. Law reporting is remunerated at the rate of twenty-five cents per folio and ten cents per folio for copy. Most of the transcripts of notes are done in longhand, and there is only one reporter who uses the caligraph. Type-writers and caligraphs are but little known.

"The *Columbia Register* employs a stenographer, a Mr. More. I am informed this gentleman does law reporting also. There is also a Mr. Tew, who is a stenographer, although employed in a different capacity.

"During the session of the legislature Charleston usually furnishes the stenographers. Several years ago there were three official positions in this

State, one at $2,500, and the other two at $2,000 each, but the last two have been abolished. There will be an attempt made this year to renew these appointments. There was also some excitement among stenographers as to an appointment in the United States court, which was talked of.

"All the reporters of this State are Munson men, as far as I am imformed. I believe there is a Mr. Ludike, in Columbia, who writes Burns, but not rapidly enough, except as an amanuensis, and a few business men and lawyers have tried Scovil's, but abandoned it. I hope at our next meeting I may be able to give a better account of 'Shorthand in South Carolina."

TEXAS.

A. G. Campbell, Dallas, writes :

"Having only been in the State six months, I cannot claim to be thoroughly posted on the subject of 'Shorthand in Texas.' Here in Dallas there are three stenographers. There are no law reporters, as there is no provision in the statute of Texas for their employment. If the question was vigorously canvassed, a reporting bill could no doubt be carried through the legislature, but the 'Old Alcalde', Governor Roberts, would veto it. During the political canvass, he announced himself as opposed to emigration and public schools so I think it very unlikely that he would sign a shorthand reporting bill. There is no popular prejudice against the profession, such as exists in some portions of the Northwest. I have mentioned the subject to several members of the bar, and they speak very favorably of it, without exception. I wish the assembled stenographers an enjoyable time."

VERMONT.

John H. Mimms, official stenographer, St. Albans, writes :

"My business engagements are such as to render it impossible for me to be with you. The time is too brief for me to contribute even a short article on the winged art, and therein do it or myself justice. I wish you every success."

WISCONSIN.

S. W. Burnham, Madison, writes :

"I beg to say that my engagements here will make it impossible for me to be in Chicago during the Shorthand Writers Convention. I trust there will be a large gathering of the fraternity, and a pleasant reunion."

A. L. Davison, Madison, writes :

"I think a good, practical organization would be very valuable. It should be devoted to the interests of the business, and not subservient to the interests of any author, publisher, or system of shorthand. As long as it is broad and liberal in its principles I shall be happy to co-operate.

Mr. Bennett said—"The letters read by the Secretary from the different States may awaken some thoughts in our minds that may call forth discussion. The Chicago reporters, who have been here, and have seen the system of reporting grow up under as much, perhaps, their manipulation, and by reason of their hard work, as any other cause in the world, might think that, perhaps, in Baltimore somebody was to blame besides the judges and lawyers. They might think, perhaps, that if a little more energy had been exerted on the part of the reporter, and instead of looking to the legislature he had looked to the actual business of reporting, to the actual work there was to do, he might have found the position of a reporter a little stronger in the city of Baltimore, and there might have been a little more work done there.

"I do not think that the Chicago reporters, with the experience they have had, would be contented with an official law in the orphan's court, in case that court did not have occasion to employ the services of a stenographer once in a year, and I think that in any city in this country of two hundred and fifty thousand population, like Baltimore, a reporting business can be built up by reporters, without the assistance of any legislature, and the business can be made to pay. Especially is this so where the newspapers have no official reporter, and there must be a certain amount of verbatim work done. I do not know who gets up the official laws in these various States; we have tried to do it, and have all taken a hand in it, reporters, lawyers and people who know nothing at all about it. I think that an official law which provides that a party should give notice of his intention to appeal before a reporter is ordered has something defective about it. My experience in lawsuits is, that neither side expects to be under the necessity of appealing. There is something radically defective, also, in an official law which provides for an attendance fee of eight dollars per day. I know it may be contended that we had better take the best we can get, but I think ten dollars a day the least that a competent reporter should do work for. I do not think he will make any more than an ordinary living at that, especially in the city of Baltimore, until business is worked up a little better there.

"Mr. Bartholomew's remarks on the Stenograph are now in order. He requests that the matter be deferred until after din-

ner. It may provoke some discussion (I hope it will), and the convention may decide whether he will go on with it now, or take a recess."

Mr. Bell moved that the convention take a recess for an hour and a half. Motion carried, and convention adjourned until 1.30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The President—"The subject in order for discussion at the morning adjournment was 'The Stenograph,' by Mr. M. M. Bartholomew, of Belleville, Ill., the inventor. I trust he is sufficiently refreshed and strengthened to give us what he has to say."

Mr. Bartholomew :

"A friend of mine once said to me that if he were going to perform a day's labor, he would hire some other man to do it, and I have always thought that if I were going to make a speech I would get somebody else to make it for me. But as there is no other person present who understands the Stenograph sufficiently to describe it, there seems to be but one thing for me to do, and that is to rise and explain.

"If any person will take the trouble to analyze a few sentences, he will find that the average number of letters to the word, as written in shorthand, is about two and a half. Assuming one hundred and sixty words a minute as sufficient to serve the interests of shorthand reporting, and multiplying by the number of letters to the word, two and a half, we find that four hundred letters a minute must be made to attain that speed. By carrying the investigation a little further, it will be seen that about three hundred strokes per minute can be made with one hand. This is not sufficient to write one hundred and sixty words per minute, unless more than one letter be made at one stroke. In order, therefore, to make a machine capable of verbatim reporting, it is necessary to do one of two things, to write more than one letter at a stroke, or to devise some means by which considerably more than three hundred strokes per minute can be made. As far as I can form an opinion, from what I have read of other machines intended for reporting, the French and Italian, the plan adopted by them is to make two or more letters at a stroke, having a sufficient number of keys to enable this to be done. I have, however, adopted the plan of making but one letter at a time, and in order to make the letters rapidly enough have introduced a very simple arrangement, by the use of

which one letter is made with one hand and the next with the other. In this manner six hundred or more letters can be made per minute, which is more than enough to equal the speed of the most skillful stenographer.

"There are but five markers employed, the alphabet being formed from the different combinations of these. These markers are operated by what seem to be two sets of keys, one for the right and the other for the left hand. In reality, however, there are but five keys, four of them having two buttons or finger-pieces each. By depressing the finger-piece on the extreme right of the key-board, it will be seen that the finger-piece on the extreme left moves with it. The same is true of the three other finger keys. These four keys are formed of bent pieces of metal, pivoted midway between the markers and the finger-pieces, as can be seen from an examination of the instrument.

"The writing is done on a paper ribbon, through an inked ribbon, which is pressed against it at each movement of the keys. By striking the thumb-key, a mark is produced on the left edge of the paper ribbon, which is called D. The second key produces a mark between the left edge and middle of the ribbon, N; the third key makes a mark in the middle of the ribbon, R, and so on. Thirty-one combinations are possible. I write words phonetically, writing all consonants, and initial and final vowels, omitting such other vowels as are not essential to legibility.

"The writing produced on the instrument is more legible than that of a pen or pencil, for the reason that the letters are always the same, no matter by whom made, nor whether quickly or slowly.

"As my desire is simply to make such explanations as will enable the convention to understand the instrument, and the plan of its working, I don't know that anything further need be said. I will, however, be glad to answer any questions that may be asked."

Mr. Daniel—"I would like to ask as to the arrangement of letters, or strokes to make letters; whether those which are most frequently used are made with the stroke of one finger, and those less frequently used by two or more."

Mr. Bartholomew—"In making the alphabet I analyzed a great many words as they occur in sentences, to ascertain the relative frequency of letters, and also endeavored to determine the same in regard to the ease of making different combinations. After this was done, I assigned the most frequently occurring letters to the combinations most easily made."

Mr. Rose—"Suppose, in court work, the reporter has to refer to notes taken an hour or two before, or perhaps a day; wouldn't it be very difficult to find them on these slips of paper?"

Mr. Bartholomew—"It can easily be arranged, by complicating the machinery somewhat, to make it write on a sheet of

paper, and if the paper ribbon should prove to be inconvenient, I should, of course, adopt that plan."

Mr. Daniel—"About how much reporting do you suppose one of these reels of paper would do?"

Mr. Bartholomew—"Perhaps one day. I could n't answer that definitely."

Mr. C. T. Brown—"Where a mistake occurs what do you do?"

Mr. Bartholomew—"I adopt a plan similar to that used by telegraphers. I strike all the keys two or three times, which makes two or three lines of dots across the paper ribbon, and then write it over the way it should be. If it occurred some time back, a pencil would have to be used in making the change."

Mr. Binmore—"As I understand, it would be a substitution of the downward movement of the finger for the gliding movement over the paper. Of course the force applied to make the downward movement is three times that which is used to make the gliding movement of the pencil, and, therefore, to that extent, at least, there must be greater delay."

Mr. Bartholomew—"Well, I don't know about that. The strokes are made rapidly enough to do the writing, and the writing is actually easy. I don't see why there should be any more force expended on a downward than on a gliding movement."

Mr. Binmore—"It is determined that one stroke downward takes three times as long as one gliding with the pencil. Is the instrument capable of writing a whole syllable at a time?"

Mr. Bartholomew—"Only one letter at a time."

Dan Brown—"I want to say a little in regard to the stenograph, or the new system of shorthand writing, as I should style it. We have new systems of shorthand springing up all around us, some of but a mushroom growth, and short lived. The question is whether the shorthand machine will be short lived or not; whether it is going to be a success as a system, as other phonographic or stenographic systems. I believe the question is of interest to every shorthand reporter—to what extent is this new system going to be practical for court reporting or official or amanuensis work, or in any branch of work that shorthand pertains to? Perhaps some doubtful member of the profession will

ask, how much is it going to affect the phonographic fraternity at large, and the systems that we have already established? I believe it will have no more effect than Mr. Longley's new eclectic, or Cross' system, or tachygraphy. This is a machine, but still the mind has to do the work, different combinations have to be made to write different letters, requiring an action of the mind just the same as in every other system of shorthand. Can this machine be operated fast enough to do verbatim reporting? I believe it can."

Mr. Eddy—"I am not prepared to say that this machine will take the place of the present system of reporting. I believe it can and will be used in a great many kinds of reporting. For one reason, that it is less tiresome than a constant use of the pen or pencil. A great many persons complain of pen paralysis, or pain in the arm while writing, and have to stop, and some have had to learn to use the left hand to write with. With the machine you use both hands, and write with much more ease than you can with the pen. I think an answer to the objections springing out of the use of the paper ribbon, is that it can be cut into strips and pasted on paper."

Mr. Rose—"In our State (New York), in court business we are required to refer to our testimony with readiness, and we couldn't stop to paste the slips on paper in court, unless we should take a small boy with us."

Mr. Jayne—"The small boy might complicate the matter, by cutting the strip in the middle of a difficult outline, and the reporter might then have to refer to his memory (as he sometimes does with other systems)."

Mr. Rose—"It might do in office work, but it would n't do in court."

Mr. Bartholomew—"I do not think cutting it into slips and pasting it on to sheets would be practicable."

The President—"Are there any other remarks on this subject? If not, we will pass to the next order of business, 'The Type-Writer,' by H. H. Unz, of Chicago."

Mr. Unz said:

"The Duke of Wellington wrote three hands,—one that no one could read but himself; another that could only be deciphered by his secretary; and yet a third, that even his Satanic Majesty could never unravel.

"I make this preface as a sort of an apology for any "*breaks*" that may occur in this very hastily prepared memorandum, written with a pencil at less than an hour's notice,—written with a pencil because, unfortunately enough, I had no type-writer at hand, and as your genial Secretary insisted that I should speak, I returned to my room, where, unluckily, I was forced to use a pencil. Should I be called upon a week from to-day to re-write what I here may read I should have to join forces with Bob Ingersoll's god, and then fail to make anything intelligible of this horrible scrawl. However, asking your indulgence, I will proceed to business.

"For nearly five years past I have been engaged and interested in the introduction of writing machines, and am, perhaps, not a little enthusiastic in the conviction of the ultimate universal adoption of the type-writer, a machine that writes with type, as a means of communicating thought. But, ladies and gentlemen (I trust I shall very soon be able to call you all friends), I shall not 'enthuse,' nor shall I go into a rhapsody in red, white and blue on the advantages of the 'Perfected Type-Writer' over the pen, nor give you a technical description of the 'Writing Manual,' such as George W. Peck, of the *Milwaukee Sun*, gives of a self-baking, stem-winding, breech-loading, lock-stitch, stern-wheel, non-explosive, automatic urchin educator and combined editorial protector, hash cutter, beefsteak pounder, and general assistant brain expander, etc., etc., etc. I shall avoid any and all technicalities, and at once enter into the subject, by saying, what perhaps many of you already know, that the first effort to make a writing machine was made in England, nearly one hundred and seventy years ago, but the honor of first making a writing machine practical belongs to an American, a citizen of the great West, C. Latham Sholes, of Milwaukee, to whose creative genius alone is due the credit of inventing the first practical writing machine. And to-day many of the devices used in writing machines were his original conceptions, though now claimed by sundry other so-called inventors as improvements.

"I say, ladies and gentlemen, that we all of us, and I mean the whole writing world, owe a debt of gratitude to the honored inventor of the type-writer that no effort of mine can fitly express, and, indeed, there are few, I believe, who grasp the greatness of the benefaction bestowed on this and coming generations. The inventions that have worked their way into permanent success, unaided and alone, by their intrinsic merit, are those which have been most valuable to science and the world, and which have revolutionized old methods, supplanting them with practical and beneficial mechanism. Such an invention is the type-writer, brought to its present high state by a firm whose fame is world-wide, and who deserve no faint commendation for the perfection to which they have brought this remarkable and thoroughly practical instrument, by the expenditure of thousands of dollars in the employment of the latest and best improved machinery and the most skilled mechanics in America (foremost of whom the superintendent of this department in Ilion, Mr. W. K. Jenne, deserves no small share of praise), in their aims to give the world a perfect writing machine, combining all modern devices with strength and durability, and all the requirements for every day use. Does it not seem strange that in the world's progress, extending over thousands and

thousands of years, aye, even in this, the era of great inventions, scarcely any improvements have been made in the primitive methods employed by the ancients? They used the stylus, and we do to-day, and we would still be scratching paper with a stick, making unsymmetrical hieroglyphics, that Carlyle aptly calls 'chirographical somersaults,' or what would answer well to a description given of Horace Greeley's writing, 'a gridiron struck by lightning,' were it not for the type-writer, whose busy click, click can be heard in the study and office of the leading men in all the walks of life and business.

"The heroism of those who fought and bled for us in '76 was in great part a matter of physical endurance. Their lives were perpetual drains on the brawn of the human system, and ours just as steadily calls on the brain. I reiterate, that their heroism was in great part a matter of beef or pork and beans, a matter of physique. War to-day takes a soldier from the gateway of his barrack, and conveys him by rail to the threshold of death, with hardly one strain of his muscular fibre. Nerve force is the essential element of the fighting man who woos the god Mars in our age. Muscle is still required, but in an always decreasing ratio. The time may come when opposing forces will be destroyed by machinery, without the need of a single violent muscular contraction. As to the desirability of that revolution, well, on that head I've no opinion to offer at the moment. All I contend is, that war to-day is more trying on the *nerves* than it was in 'ye olden time.'

"The same results that are reached in arts of peace, by means exactly similar, the carnival of invention and discovery, is, of course, more applicable to the subject in hand. Muscle goes every day a little further to the rear in all and every form of human endeavor. Stress on the nervous system is the foe of modern life. Hundreds and thousands of brain workers are at this very moment in danger of one or another form of paralysis, from the urgency of the calls on the nerve centers, and until within a few years there was no relief from the scratch, scratch of the pen. Then came the type-writer, accomplishing what had for centuries been thought impossible, if in fact it had been thought of at all.

"The strain that is occasioned by the work of an ordinary brain worker, or one accustomed to mental effort, would throw a hod carrier into convulsions. Many of us have seen tangible evidences of how the nervous system has been overwrought, prostrated, brought to a stand still. The hand that grasped the pencil held it with such force as to almost break the little instrument. What followed? Complete inertia, absolute want of power to form a letter, the break. The time had come to find if the inventor, who had done so much for the soldier and farmer, in fact, for all who perform mechanical operations, was potent enough to help the pen writer.

"Little did Gutenberg and Faust think that one day their wonderful invention would lead to the utilization of their methods in a machine that would supplant the stylus for every day use. To many minds the type-writer is suggestive of having to learn the art of Faust and Gutenberg, an amount of labor that would make it impracticable, in fact, an impossibility, for the average writer to earn a livelihood with. The manipulation is so familiar to

you all that it would indeed be 'carrying coals to Newcastle,' and might well offend your self-respect, if I hazard one syllable of instruction.

"I cannot call to mind, though I am perhaps a little prejudiced, a single invention that is destined to be a more universal auxiliary as an economizer of time and labor than the 'Perfected Type-Writer.' At first, like even the sewing machine, jealously regarded by the majority of people as a luxury, even as a toy, that only the favored few could possess, but now an absolute necessity in every family, so the type-writer, at first in a degree imperfect, has been perfected, and at the same time the price has been materially decreased, until now it is within the reach of every one.

"That the type-writer is an established fact, a success, is evidenced by the thousands that are in daily use, and, furthermore, by the fact that for over a year the works in this department have been kept under a 'full head of steam' to supply the demand, which is constantly and steadily increasing.

"Now, in the face of all this, would it not be well if the principals of schools and colleges (I notice that several of our leading business educators, who have already done what I would here suggest, are present) would adopt this new and lucrative business as a separate department, if not in the regular course of business education, for the great purpose for which education is designed is to make the best possible use of—to cultivate and enhance the value of the gifts of intellect that God has bestowed on us, and to fit us for contact with the world. Every school and college should take hold and make type-writing a part and parcel of a practical education. The day is not far distant when this will be absolutely necessary, for is it not far more important than playing on a piano, or a dozen kindred accomplishments, so-called, that accomplish ofttimes the exactly opposite effect from what is intended. In a word, to be vulgar, type-writing carries with it bread and butter (up to the present time, I expect operatives have had their bread buttered on both sides, so comparatively few are they) to a more feasible certainty to a greater majority of pupils than any other business, even in professions that require long and arduous study to become proficient in.

"The type-writer opens the largest and most congenial field of pleasant employment to women, and places them in a position that makes them at once self-sustaining, and in a manner that is highly creditable.

"I reiterate, if word of mine had weight, shorthand and type-writing should be made a part of the regular course in every school in the land. They are essential to the age, time annihilators that go hand in hand with telephones and kindred inventions.

"In closing, I would add that I sincerely believe that up to date the Perfected Type-Writer is the most perfect writing machine made, and bids fair to remain so until some latent genius will invent a principle essentially different from anything that has been done. The Messrs. Remington are making, and continue to make, improvements, where they find, upon practical tests, that improvements suggested *are* improvements.

"Thanking you for your kind indulgence, I trust I shall meet you one and all again."

Mr. Daniel—"An idea was suggested by the remark made by Mr. Unz in regard to the number of strokes which can be made in a given time. In looking it up for another purpose, I made some figures on the subject, based upon what I know to have been written on the type-writer. I have seen one hundred and nineteen words written in a minute, by Mrs. Flowers of Detroit. That would take four hundred and ninety strokes or touches of the keys, which shows that almost five hundred strokes might be possible. It takes a fast writer to write one hundred and nineteen words, but it gives an approximation of the speed that could be attained on the stenograph."

Mr. President—"I have thought considerable lately on the subject of a substitution of the type-writer for certain grades of reporting work. I do not see why it cannot be done, and with great advantage. I think the type-writer capable of writing at least two hundred words a minute. I do not mean two hundred full words, with every letter in the word, but what Mr. Graham calls in his book brief longhand. He uses the frame of a word the same as we use it in actual shorthand reporting. I believe that by using this brief longhand one-half of the letters may be eliminated, and you might leave out spaces, although I do not think it would be safe to leave out all the spaces."

Mr. Unz—"The stroke on the space key doesn't move the carriage, but makes a period over the last letter of the word. Any one with a little practice can read it almost as readily as longhand."

Mr. Rose—"Mr. Deming's machine strikes a period over the first letter of the word."

The President—"I don't see any advantage in that, if he has to strike the space bar to produce the period."

Mr. Rose—"He strikes the space bar at the same time that he strikes the letter."

The President—"That is, by an adjustment of the mechanism of the type-writer he is enabled, practically, to strike two keys at once, and it seems to me that by using brief longhand, a person could attain such speed with a type-writer, as fully to meet all requirements of an amanuensis in a business office."

Mr. Rose—"I would say that in the past week I was in the office of Walsh & Ford, in Grand Rapids, and that a young

man in their office, on a test, wrote ninety-seven words on the type-writer, and read the copy. He did n't look at the machine, at all, but kept his eye on the copy. I know he wrote ninety-seven words in a minute, because I held the watch."

A Member—" I would like to ask Mr. Unz whether a No. 5 type-writer has been made, or whether the idea has been carried out ? "

Mr. Unz—" We have found that, while such a machine would be desirable, under the present construction of the type-writer one that weighs only five pounds would not be worth anything. Those of you who have used the type-writer know the wear and tear of those machines. The No. 4 machine is as light as it is practicable to make a machine that will stand a daily use of twenty hours, working day and night. I have seen several models in Ilion that weighed but five pounds, but we would n't dare to warrant that machine. The lighter the material the sooner it would give out ; and for work in a stenographer's office it would be found impracticable."

The President—"As a matter of curiosity, I would like to ask you what causes the letters on the type-writer to get out of line."

Mr. Unz—" That is almost impossible to avoid in any machine on the lever principle. It is caused by the vibration of the type bar."

The President—" The matter of organization of the International Association is probably as important a matter as will come before this convention. I would suggest that we receive the report of the committee, and go on with the organization, and finish that, if we have to leave some other business undone.

Mr. Rose moved that the convention now receive the report of the committee on International organization.

Motion carried.

Mr. Bell, chairman of the committee, submitted draft of constitution and by-laws.

Ben Weaver moved that the constitution and by-laws reported by the committee be read, article by article, section by section, and amended, rejected, or adopted.

Motion carried.

The constitution and by-laws were considered, amended and adopted as follows :

CONSTITUTION.

NAME.

ART. I. The name of this organization shall be "The International Association of Shorthand Writers of the United States and Canada."

OBJECT.

ART. II. The object of this Association shall be the advancement of the interests of the profession in all its various branches, and to bring it more prominently before the public.

MEMBERS.

ART. III. Any shorthand writer having been for three years practically employed in any branch of the profession, or who is able to write one hundred and fifty words per minute for five consecutive minutes, shall be eligible for membership under the by-laws hereinafter provided; and any shorthand writer may be elected an honorary member of the Association.

OFFICERS.

ART. IV. The officers of this Association shall be, a President, two Vice-Presidents (one from the United States and one from Canada), a Secretary and Treasurer, an Assistant Secretary, and an Executive Committee.

The President, or in his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside at all meetings of the Association, and shall audit accounts. The President and Vice-Presidents shall be, *ex-officio*, members of the Executive Committee. The duties of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary will be those usually pertaining to these offices, and the Secretary shall, in addition, act as Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to approve all applications for membership. The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the Association, and pay all bills audited by the President.

AMENDMENTS.

ART. V. This constitution shall go into effect immediately after its adoption, and may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members present at any regular meeting.

BY-LAWS.

PRESIDING OFFICER.

1. In case of the absence of the President and the Vice-Presidents at any meeting of the Association, a member present may be elected as President *pro tem.* Twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

MEETINGS.

2. This Association shall hold an annual International Congress of Shorthand Writers of the United States and Canada on the first Thursday of September, at such place as may be decided by vote at the preceding meeting, which all shorthand writers, whether members or not, are invited to attend.

MEMBERSHIP.

3. Applications for membership may be made by any shorthand writer of good reputation who will forward to the Secretary the requisite fee and detailed account of his work, together with an approval of his application by the member of the Executive Committee residing in his resident State, Territory or Province; *provided*, that in any State, Territory or Province where there is no member of the Executive Committee, application may be approved by a member of the Executive Committee from any other State, Territory or Province, and the Secretary will forward to such applicant a certificate of membership. Honorary members shall be elected only at annual meetings of the Association.

FEES.

4. The membership fee of this Association shall be two dollars, to be paid annually, on or before the 1st of July.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

5. The Executive Committee shall consist of one member from each State and Territory of the United States and each Province of Canada, whose duty it shall be to furnish the Secretary of the Association with the names and addresses of all shorthand writers in his State, Territory or Province, from time to time, and approve all proper applications for membership from his State, Territory or Province. He shall be present at each annual meeting or appoint a proxy.

PUBLICATION.

6. The printing of the proceedings of each annual meeting shall include the constitution and by-laws as amended at said annual meeting. Contracts for said printing shall be under the control of the President and Secretary; the work of preparing copy, etc., for said printing, and the distribution of printed matter to be under the supervision of the Secretary.

Mr. Kent offered the following resolution, which was adopted;

Resolved, That the ladies and gentlemen present who have registered as members of the convention, and thereby shown their desire to promote the welfare of the profession, shall be constituted members of the International Association to-day organized, subject to their signing the constitution and payment of two dollars as membership fee, and shall be registered, if now actually engaged in the profession, as

1st. Active members, but otherwise, as

2d. Honorary members, till they qualify as active members.

Mr. Bell moved that the convention proceed to the election of officers of the International Association for one year.

Motion carried, and the following officers were elected :

President, J. L. BENNETT, Chicago.
Vice-President for United States, THEO. C. ROSE, Ithaca, N. Y.
Vice-President for Canada, NELSON R. BUTCHER, Toronto, Ont.
Secretary and Treasurer, DAN BROWN, Chicago.
Assistant Secretary, MRS. F. A. HOLLAND, Chicago.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Alabama—WM. M. LINDSEY, Mobile.
Colorado—L. H. EDDY, Denver.
District of Columbia—J. COVER, Washington.
Dakota—C. C. VALENTINE, Yankton.
Illinois—CHAS. T. BROWN, Chicago.
Indiana—C. CLEMENT, Evansville.
Iowa—L. P. DOSH, Davenport.
Kentucky—L. P. LITTLE, Owensboro.
Kansas—T. J. TILLEY, Topeka.
Michigan—THOS. I. DANIEL, Jackson.
Missouri—FRANK KRAFT, St. Louis.
New York—W. G. CHAFFEE, Oswego.
Nebraska—JNO. T. BELL, Omaha.
Ontario—GEO. BENGOUGH, Toronto.
Ohio—J. G. POMERENE, Cleveland.
Pennsylvania—THOS. BOYLE, Pittsburgh.

Mr. Daniel moved that the convention adjourn until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Motion carried, and convention adjourned.

SECOND DAY.

MORNING SESSION.

The convention was called to order at 10 A. M. by President Bennett, who read the following:

"J. L. BENNETT, *President of the Convention:*

"I find, on consulting the time table, that it is absolutely necessary for me to leave the city this morning.

"Please express to the convention my regrets at not being able to remain.

THEO. C. ROSE."

Mr. Kent offered the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the Executive Committee of the Association be empowered to invite the co-operation and fellowship of gentlemen of standing in the profession abroad, and elect them honorary associates, and that they tender positions to Isaac Pitman, Bath, Eng., the father of phonography; Thos. Allen Reed, London, Eng., author of the 'Reporter's Companion'; J. A. Salter, official reporter House of Parliament; the principal stenographers of the Corps Legislatif, Paris, the Reichsrath, Berlin, and the Italian Parliament; the Presidents of the London Shorthand Writers Association, the Duployé Association, Paris, and the Gabelsberger Association, Berlin; William Senior, official reporter of the Queen's Parliament, Brisbane, Australia; Frederick Bevill, Sydney, N.S.W.; Powell Thompson, official reporter of the Council, Jamaica, West Indies."

The resolution was adopted by the convention.

President Bennett—"Our next order of business is

'THE OFFICIAL REPORTER,'

and we will ask L. P. Dosh, of Davenport, Iowa, to address you on this subject."

Mr. L. P. Dosh said:

"*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention:*

"I failed to receive a programme assigning to me the topic of 'The Official Reporter,' and was spoken to a few moments ago to make some remarks on official reporting in Iowa. I am sorry I have not time to prepare a paper, and my remarks will necessarily be desultory.

"Previous to 1872 we had not what is known as official reporters, but parties litigant and reporters made such arrangements for work and compensation as were mutually satisfactory,—generally ten dollars per diem and expenses, and twenty-five cents a page for transcripts. In 1872 a statute was enacted authorizing the judges of district and circuit courts to appoint a reporter, who should be well skilled in his art, take an oath for the faithful performance of his duties, and who was subject to removal for incompetency or neglect of duty. The compensation was to be such sum as the judge should think proper, not exceeding eight dollars a day for each day actually employed in court taking testimony, and for transcripts ten cents a hundred words. The per diem was paid by the county, and in civil cases taxed as part of the costs to be recovered by the county. The transcript fee in civil cases was to be paid by the party ordering work done, and in criminal cases, where the defendant was acquitted, was to be paid by the county. The judges generally allowed the full pay of eight dollars a day, but there were frequent disagreements as to length of time to be computed, some judges allowing full pay for all the time the court was in session, whether the reporter was actually reporting or not; others allowing a full day where any reporting was done, and some keeping account of actual time, and allowing halves and quarters of days.

"County boards made a great ado about the expense, but took no account of the saving to the public by the increased dispatch of business, and when the grange movemement got under headway, and the people were seized with spasms of economy, they went in for 'reform' with a vengeance, and while all their attention was devoted to stopping the spigots, they overlooked the wastage at the bungs. The legislature, very largely composed of grangers, among other things attacked the reporters. While they could hire an able bodied man on a farm for eighteen dollars a month and board, it was enormous, outrageous extravagance to pay eight dollars a day for a man to *sit and do nothing but write*. At the last session but one a bill was prepared cutting us down to five dollars a day. Of course there was a general alarm among the craft, and we rallied to save ourselves from defeat. We went up to Des Moines, cultivated the acquaintance of the judiciary committee, smoked cigars, ate oysters, etc., etc., but all to no purpose. The bill went on its course, and would have come up for final action on the last day of the session, but, fortunately, it might be regarded sacrilegious to say providentially, for us, the bill had been misplaced, and could nowhere be found (some malicious sons of Belial afterward said it had slipped through a hole in the pocket of its custodian, and was found in his boot leg, but such a story reflected upon his sobriety, and was rejected).

"At that time our firm had taken pains to ascertain the views of the judges of our courts, and submitted their opinions to the members. I wish I had one of our circulars to submit to this convention.

"At the last session a law was passed intended to remedy the difficulty as to time, and we now receive not to exceed six dollars a day, but for all the time the court is in session. In some districts this is better than the old law, and in others worse. For transcripts it is cut down to six cents per hundred words. This is too small, and there is no danger of our soul's salvation being

endangered by the too rapid acquisition of wealth. There is an injustice in it which will be illustrated by an example. Last spring I furnished a transcript at six cents a hundred words; the case was appealed, and the clerk of the court, in making up the records, instead of embodying my transcript, filed it as part of the archives, and copied my work. For this he received ten cents a hundred words, and could hire a small boy to do the copying, while I had to copy my own from my notes, and yet I received but three-fifths of his compensation.

"There is a mistaken idea among lawyers as to shorthand. When one says he writes shorthand, many believe he is therefore 'old lightning,' and the question of other qualifications seems to cut but little figure. In his message to the last legislature Gov. Gear undertook to furnish some figures as to cost of reporting, etc., and made some recommendations, but his conclusions were drawn from insufficient data, as he himself admitted, no credits having been allowed for moneys reimbursed to the counties.

"Whether we can restore the law to its old figures of compensation is very doubtful, as there are so many young men who imagine themselves full fledged after a course of six months practice, much of which time, it is to be feared, has been devoted to the development of 'cheek.' One of the members of the judiciary committee said there were a dozen young men ready to fill each position if the officials should resign. One of the members of our firm challenged a test, and agreed that if a dozen should submit to examination, and two of the twelve should write one hundred and twenty-five words a minute, he would agree to work for five dollars a day, and not whimper. The candidates for the test were not produced.

"It is now a question among us whether we had better go in and try for restoration of wages to eight dollars, or to try and have the law repealed entirely, leaving the whole business to be arranged according to the law of supply and demand, and make a donation to the public of the economy of time arising from the dispatch of business. The present law is unsatisfactory. We are tied hand and foot, but are not agreed as yet upon any course of action."

The President:

"I wish to say a word upon this question of official reporting, particularly as illustrated by the remarks of the gentleman from Iowa. In most classes of professional work, the one who does the work has the privilege, and perhaps the right, of setting the price which he shall charge therefor. It seems that in the State of Iowa the legislature has stepped in, and has assumed to say that the services of a reporter are worth far less than what all of us know them to be worth. We need not spend a great deal of time in arguing that a reporter who travels about the country, to attend the irregular and spasmodic sittings of courts, for the sum of six dollars per day, paying his own expenses, and then writes up the testimony taken by him at the rate of six cents per folio, is not on the high road to an independent fortune. The forcible question which presents itself to our minds is, what are you going to do about it? It occurs to me that by proper organization and diligent presentation of the facts of the case, the reporters may be able to control official laws, so far, at least, as to have them

provide for decent payment for decent work. The present law in the State of Iowa is unjust, and it ought not to be difficult to make the legislature, even though composed largely of grangers, see its injustice. I am informed that the value of reporting is conceded in Iowa. This being so, why cannot the reporters there refuse to work under the present law, and so force the adoption of a better one. I think no law at all would be preferable to the present arrangement.

"I think the right course now in that State is to turn in as one man, and have every law upon the subject of shorthand reporting wiped completely off the statute books. The reporters will find they will do about half as much work in the next five years as in the past five years, and get just as much pay for it. Iowa is a large State, and in cases where the employment of a reporter is necessary six cents a folio for writing out the testimony is ridiculous. We get twenty cents in Chicago, and think it low enough. We pay from four to five cents a folio, to our amanuenses, and if we only receive six, the margin of profit would not be startlingly large.

"Let the reporters say to the legislature, 'We had a satisfactory law, but you have tinkered it until it is worse than no law at all, and we desire to be put upon the same footing as those who carry on any other business.' I think that is the true position, and it is the position the Chicago reporters took when the legislative Solons at Springfield commenced to talk about six dollars a day, and ten or twelve cents a folio.

"These official laws should not be looked to as the only haven of refuge for the reporting profession. We have something to stand on besides that. Get rid of your official law, and when a man wants a case reported, charge him ten dollars a day, and twenty cents a folio, and it will be but a very short time when the legislature will say to you, 'Gentlemen, what is your price to go into these courts as official reporters?' Then tell them what you want, and they will come to your terms. This is all in the reporters' hands. I never allowed a man to set a price on my work, and I do not believe I ever shall. One of the Governors of Iowa recommended the abolition of these laws. If they are abolished, some other Governor will recommend that they be re-enacted, and then a fair and just law can be obtained."

Mr. Dan Brown said:

"*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

"On the subject of official reporting, I believe that fifteen years ago we had a better law in the State of Iowa than at the present time. It was a short section in the code of 1860, reading, as I remember it, 'The court shall, on the trial of every indictment, when requested by either party, keep, or cause to be kept by some one by him appointed, full minutes of the oral evidence of the trial, which shall be certified by the judge, and filed by the clerk as part of the records of the case.' Under this provision I commenced reporting in the courts of southeastern Iowa in January, 1865. The clause made no provision for pay, but the judge instructed me to make out my bill for services, which he certified, as he recognized that the law required no labor done without proper compensation for the same. I charged ten dollars per

day for the attendance, and ten cents per folio for transcript, and had no difficulty in obtaining my pay.

"By becoming familiar with the members of the bar in the district, and watching the court record, I secured the reporting of almost all of the criminal causes; and my success in this direction aided in obtaining the reporting of all the important civil causes. I reported in courts there from 1865 to 1871, when the first official stenographic law went into force, and had the offer of the official appointment in the first judicial district under Judge Tracy, and in the sixth judicial district under Judge Sampson, but declined them, and stepped out of the law into the amanuensis and teaching branches of the profession.

"I believe, as our President, Mr. Bennett, has said, that the competent law reporters of the day are better off without an official reporting law; but if there be a law it should be one simply providing for the reporting of causes by a shorthand writer, without providing for official appointments or for rate to be paid, leaving these points to be settled by supply and demand."

Mr. Walker:

"*Mr. President:*

"Referring to the official law in the State of Iowa, I would suggest that the next law they pass should provide for a test of competency, and then every reporter would have to rely on his own merits as a stenographer for obtaining appointment, instead of on political favor. The attorneys and judges in the State of Iowa regard the official reporting law there as peculiarly their own, and think the reporter has no particular interest in it, except to draw his pay. They do not care anything about the reporters' views on the law, and no matter what we may do, or endeavor to do, we cannot secure a repeal of that law."

M. M. Bartholomew said:

"*Mr. President:*

"I would like to suggest that, in my opinion, it would be better for the stenographers of Iowa to ignore the law, and refuse to act under it, but to attend the courts and report such cases as the parties were willing to pay for themselves, charging them regular rates for attendance and transcript.

KANSAS.

Mr. T. J. Tilley said:

"*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

"Brevity is said to be the soul of wit, and I will therefore endeavor to put more soul into what I say than wit. During the early years of the existence of the State of Kansas the people were too much engaged in the hardships of frontier life to devote any time to the subject of these remarks,

and not until the year 1867 did the legislature take any action in the matter. At that session a law was passed authorizing the district and criminal courts of Leavenworth County to appoint an official stenographer, who should receive twenty-five cents per folio for taking shorthand notes, to be taxed as costs in the case, and, in addition thereto, the sum of twenty-five cents per folio for any transcripts furnished, to be paid for by the party ordering the same. Mr. H.C. Hollister, now of Leadville, Col., was the official stenographer under this law. In 1870 the legislature reduced the fee to fifteen and ten respectively, and the law as amended remained upon the statute book until the spring of 1879, when it was repealed by the law now in force, which provides for six dollars per diem and ten cents transcript fee. The per diem in civil cases is taxed as costs in the case, and in criminal cases is paid by the county; the transcript fee in civil cases is paid by the party ordering transcript, and in criminal cases is paid by the county, except when the defendant is able to pay for his own transcript. Some of the reporters work under this law and others do not, being controlled in that matter by the circumstances and necessities of the case. I get full rates for nearly all my business.

"I went to Kansas in the spring of 1876, and at that time there were only four stenographers in the State, one law and three amanuensis. The demand has increased since then, until there are now about twenty-five stenographers in the State, of which number about half a dozen are court reporters, and the rest are employed as amanuenses in government, railroad, law and commercial offices, most of the amanuenses residing in Topeka. We have five courts, police, justice, probate, district and supreme. The services of the stenographer are generally confined to the district court, and when he is employed in either of the other courts it is done at private expense.

"The great bulk of litigation in that State, in both the Federal and State courts, is over small amounts or small criminal offences, and in many localities it is difficult to make the parties think the services of a stenographer are essential, and it is only in the most important cases that he is employed. Our supreme court is composed of three judges, and each one was authorized by the last legislature to appoint a stenographic amanuensis, at one hundred dollars per month, and the compensation for that class of work ranges from that price down to fifty dollars per month, according to ability and position.

"We have a good many lawyers in our State who are from the East, and some of them have been accustomed for a long time to using a stenographer, and they generally avail themselves of such assistance when they have a case of sufficient importance. There is, however, very little money in the business at present, owing to the legal fees allowed and the fact that it has only been a few years since the system was extended throughout the State, but I apprehend this condition of affairs will change as the advantages of stenography become known, and that in a few years the business will compare favorably with that of other portions of the country."

The President—We will now ask Mr. W. C. Kenyon, of Omaha, to tell the convention what he knows about

AMANUENSIS WORK.

Mr. Kenyon said:

"*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

"As apologies seem to be the order of the day, I must offer mine. I am down on the programme for a paper on the subject of amanuensis work, but I assure you it was a surprise to me to know this. It was only yesterday morning that I was informed that this was the case, and had I gone to work then I might have prepared a paper for this occasion, but, owing to the number of gentlemen absent from whom papers were expected, I was fearful every moment of being called upon, and hence have been on the *qui vive* ever since, the banquet of last evening having occupied time which could not, in justice to the spread and your estimable company, be devoted to this subject. My friend, the Professor (of the Brown family), however, assures me that I can tell all about it, and not half try. I am doubtful, but trust the few remarks I may make will be of interest to the majority of the members of this Association.

"This branch of the shorthand profession is one which has assumed large proportions within the past few years, and if they did not call to their aid the assistance of the amanuensis, the business men of the country would find a very large portion of their business sadly neglected, for it is an indisputable fact that the employment of the amanuensis in a very short time increases the correspondence of banks, mercantile, railroad, and other offices, which necessarily extends the business of the various industries, and thus rolls in the 'dollars of our dads.' You will therefore see that the shorthand writer should be well and liberally remunerated, but is this the case? I am afraid not, and the reason is obvious to those who have employed shorthand men. There is a tendency on the part of students who have not fully mastered the art to apply for positions they are not competent to fill, and, in this way, diminish the respect among people for the shorthand profession. I would advise all beginners to creep before attempting to run; first master the art, and then go ahead.

"The demand for thoroughly competent men is greater than the supply. We are in need to-day in two of the departments of the corporation with which I am engaged two good shorthand writers, for whose services we are willing to pay sixty-five and seventy-five dollars a month. Only a few weeks ago a young man, a competent shorthand writer, came to me for employment. I gave him a note to a friend in the city, who in a few hours secured him a situation at ten dollars per day, his hours being from one o'clock to six o'clock in the afternoon—three hundred dollars a month for an amanuensis! This, of course, does not happen every day, but it will convey to your mind the great demand for competent shorthand writers, and is an incentive to those struggling to reach the front ranks to persevere upward and onward.

"The mere fact of being able to write shorthand is not sufficient; your spelling, grammar and penmanship should be well taken in hand. If

there is any one thing more than another which displeases an educated man, it is to have letters passed to him for signature that are poorly spelled, the construction of sentences faulty, and the whole badly written. Of course, now that writing machines have been perfected (I refer to the type-writer and caligraph), this latter evil is readily overcome, but I charge you to look well to your spelling and your grammar (and, by the way, I think I should take the lesson home, for I find myself wandering at times).

"The application for position by the amanuensis who does not thoroughly understand his work is, and has been, a great source of annoyance to the professional shorthand man, diminishing, as I have said, the admiration one should have for the 'genius,' if I may be allowed the expression.

"How well do I remember in my youthful days with what feelings of respect I looked upon a shorthand writer, who seemed to me to be something far superior to the generality of mankind; but, alas! how rudely has the illusion been dispelled by the events of more mature years. In fact, I don't think very much of shorthand writers—of some shorthand writers, I mean to say. To illustrate. Some years ago, having a few weeks on my hands with nothing to do (there are several professionals, I understand, now in the city who are troubled with this same complaint), I came East, and arriving in one of the large cities, thought it would be fun to hunt up a job. I didn't care particularly what it was, you know. I was just too anxious to find something, the pay being no object, my parents having untold wealth. I had never been out of employment, and wanted to see how hard it would be to obtain a situation, having made a wager with one of my friends that I could secure work anywhere. I admit I was a little egotistical. Walking into a large wholesale house, and accosting an old gentleman who appeared to be worrying over an armful of letters, I asked him if he had anything he could offer me. 'What can you do?' he queried. 'Most anything,' I replied (did you ever see a shorthand writer who could not do everything?), and, pointing to the letters, questioned 'Why don't you employ an amanuensis?' The look the old gentleman gave me was withering. 'Yes! oh yes! an amanuensis; I guess not; I have had four.' 'If not an impertinent question, might I ask you what you paid these young men for their services?' 'Well, sir, I gave them more than they were worth, forty dollars per month.' Just think of it, for a shorthand writer! Having in mind the welfare of a young friend, I prevailed upon the old fellow to allow me to sit down and 'take' his letters. By nightfall I had gained his esteem, and after a few day's work secured the position for my young friend at seventy-five dollars per month. His salary was increased from time to time, until it has now reached the sum of $1,600 per year. The old man has a daughter, young and beautiful, and there is good prospects of the young man marrying into the family. This shows what a young and enterprising, and withal a good, shorthand writer can do—sometimes.

"Now as to the number of words that an amanuensis should be able to write. This is a question that is difficult to answer. I cannot agree with Mr. Unz, who stated to us yesterday that he had calculated the speed of an amanuensis at forty words per minute. This was a story written, I presume,

on the type-writer. We know, however, from experience that this rate is not sufficient. I will admit that in a given time, taking into consideration interruptions of one kind and another, that it *might* average only forty, but where would one be if supposed to take a man talking all the way from one hundred to one hundred and fifty words a minute? He would be badly left, that's all. In my own case, though occupying an amanuensis position, there are times when the words flow from the speaker's lips like lightning, as it were, and were I not capable of keeping up I would necessarily fall behind. Strange, but too true.

"I think, however, that any young man or woman possessing ordinary intelligence and education, who can write shorthand at a rate of from one hundred to one hundred and twenty words per minute, is eligible for the position of amanuensis in the various branches of business There are, of course, positions where it would be necessary to employ what are called first-class men to fill them, but these positions are rare, and the employe is required, in addition to his shorthand ability, to be able to discharge other and more important duties.

"Allow me to repeat what I said to the shorthand writers in the beginning. Perfect yourself in grammar; learn to spell well; do not neglect your penmanship; be sure you can write shorthand well enough before seeking a position. If you will bear these points in mind, I do not think you need regret the time and study necessary to perfect yourself in this beautiful art.

"I am sorry that my time has been so short, as I should have liked to prepare some statistics as to the number of shorthand writers in the United States and Canada, and such other interesting information. Perhaps at our next meeting I shall have an opportunity to address you on a similar subject, and will then endeavor to present you with a little food for reflection."

The topic of

SHORTHAND PUBLICATIONS

was assigned to Mr. Thos. Bengough, of Toronto, Ontario, but in the absence of that gentleman, Mr. Fred W. Wodell, of the *Daily Spectator*, Hamilton, Ontario, responded:

Mr. F. W. Wodell said:

"*Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention:*

"I appear before you in behalf of a fellow Canadian, and, while helping him, feel it a privilege to address a highly intelligent and influential audience, such as that before me.

"Connected as I am with the newspaper profession, I have perhaps better opportunities than many of those present of observing the various styles of journalism adopted by the press of the country generally. Every profession of importance has now one or more organs, journals devoted to the peculiar interests of those who pursue that profession. I call to mind as American publications devoted to the interests of shorthand writers, *Browne's Phono-*

graphic Monthly, of New York City; *Bengough's Canadian Illustrated Shorthand Writer*, published in Toronto; and *The Shorthand Review*, a Scovil organ, published by Wolfe & Fracker, at Cleveland, Ohio. In England there are a great many shorthand publications, most of them lithographed in Isaac Pitman's system. The shorthand publications of this country, other than the text books published by different authors, consist almost wholly of journals such as those named above. There is no American shorthand literature current, as is the case in England, where novels and poems and other works are published in the mystic characters. This is a state of things to be deplored, but at present I see no remedy. It is, therefore, to the shorthand journals of America I propose to call your attention for a short time. I am not here to advocate the claims of any journal now published for the profession, but I wish to give you my idea of what a shorthand journal should be to meet the wants of the profession in this country, and you will choose for yourselves which of those mentioned comes nearest to the requirements I mention for your approval. Though I may touch a sore point with some present, I must say I think discussions and quarrels over men and systems should have no place in the columns of a well conducted journal—personalities should be avoided. When I subscribe for or purchase a shorthand periodical, I expect to find therein news of the craft from all countries, and I look eagerly for personal notes, giving the whereabouts and doings of my fellow stenographers in all parts of the country. This I consider one of the most interesting departments of a shorthand journal. I do not believe that the art of shorthand writing has by any means reached perfection, and the columns of the model journal should be open to suggestions as to improvements in forms, or new and more expeditious methods of doing good work, from any shorthand writer who may be good enough, when he thinks he has a good thing, to wish others of the craft to have the benefit of it also. But if a shorthand journal commits itself to the advocacy of any one system, and becomes strongly partisan in spirit, there will be no inducement to any to contribute such suggestions. On the contrary, a barrier will be raised in the way of many who write systems other than the one advocated by the journal, who will be stirred up to opposition by its partisan articles, but who otherwise might have benefited the readers of the journal, by giving the results of their experience in the use of forms and methods of conducting business. In a word, the journal should be cosmopolitan as to systems, non-partisan as to men, newsy, keeping a careful watch for everything that is going the rounds of the press or current in shorthand circles which may be of use or interest to its readers. Thanking you, ladies and gentlemen, for your kind attention, I beg leave to resume my seat."

Mr. F. G. Wolfe, Cleveland, Ohio, said:

"*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

"I do not know what I can say on this subject I am struck by the remark of the gentleman who preceded me, that shorthand journals, to be of the greatest value to the art and interest to the profession, should be cosmopolitan in character.

"*The Shorthand Review*, of which I am the representative, has been published four years, two years in Pittsburgh and two years in Cleveland. It has advocated the Scovil system of shorthand, but while its shorthand pages have been devoted to this system, its printed pages have been filled with general matter, with a view of interesting alike writers of all systems, and I am glad to know we are all growing in this direction.

"A journal of a narrow and prejudiced character is not likely to exert much influence for good. It should not confine itself exclusively to its particular line of followers and to the defense and support of its special system, but, to to be of the greatest value to the development and progress of shorthand, should present matter of an interesting and instructive character on general shorthand topics, be fair in its criticism of all systems, study correct principles on which systems of shorthand should be based, and be willing to admit all good points. In fact, I might say, should be published in the same view as that for which this International Association bas been organized.

"I need not speak to you of the value of shorthand publications to stenographers, nor of their value as agencies for the promotion of the shorthand interest. The very eagerness with which they are received is sufficient evidence of their appreciation, and to their influence more than anything else does shorthand owe much of its present growth.

"I think our shorthand journals are creditable representatives of the shorthand art in this country.

"Perhaps they are not so perfect as those in England, but when shortnand here is as generally understood and practiced as there, I have no doubt our work will meet with greater encouragement and support. I will not take up more time, but would like to hear from Mr. Scott Browne on the subject."

Mr. D. L. Scott Browne, of New York City, being called upon, responded as follows:

"*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

"I saw that the subject of 'Shorthand Publications' was assigned to Thomas Bengough, of Toronto, Ont., and I did not expect to be called upon on this subject. I will, however, take the liberty of saying a few words on the rise and progress of *Browne's Phonographic Monthly*, which, I understand, is the information you desire.

"The *Monthly* began publication in November, 1875. For fifteen years preceding its advent there had been but one shorthand publication that was issued anywhere within six months of the time of its date, and this publication had lingered on for the whole fifteen years, being devoted to promoting the sale of the editor's publications. It failed to serve the interests of the profession or the student, and the public had gotten sick of this kind of phonographic literature.

"Many practical reporters came to us and suggested the publication of a professional journal of shorthand, pledging themselves to support us if we would start the enterprise. So the *Monthly* was given birth to in 1875, and it has continued uninterruptedly to the present time, having increased one-

third in size, and is now about to make another increase that will make it double the original size. It has had the good effect of cementing the fraternity into a common brotherhood; of giving interchange of views between stenographers throughout the world; of enlarging the knowledge of shorthand; of showing the absurdities of authors of systems; of presenting facts in fac simile notes of how reporting is done; of being genuine in its interest for the advancement of the art and elevation of the profession. It has made acquainted, by biographical sketches and portraits, the leading reporters in widely different parts of the world; it has aided the profession in the passage of good bills, establishing laws for official reporting; it has been a guide to the student that has saved many years of wasted time in learning the art; it has helped the profession to a standing recognized by others as equal with the legal and other professions; it has caused a brotherhood to spring up where only hatred and enmity had existed before; it has presented the news of the day as it occurred, enlightening stenographers, informing the public of the benefits of the art, and establishing confidence and a demand for its use in the business world; and it is now going on to greater usefulness than heretofore in the publication of shorthand reading matter for stenographers of different systems, and for a higher grade of literature in the phonographic art. We feel that our work in the *Monthly* is a better commentary on our motives than our words can be, and will leave the profession to judge for itself, and show its appreciation accordingly as the publication shall merit its support and encouragement."

THE UNIFICATION OF SHORTHAND.

The following paper, prepared by Elias Longley, Cincinnati, was read by Leo. A. Longley:

"*To the President and Members of the International Convention of Shorthand Writers:*

"Please consider me one *of* you, though unhappily, for myself at least, not one *with* you. When this convention was called, and up to within a month ago, I congratulated myself on the prospect and the pleasure of meeting many of my old phonographic friends and patrons whom I have never seen, except with the eye of faith in the worthiness of a common cause. That cause, the writing and spelling reform, which embraces in its principles and practice the merest shorthand writer, if he be of the phonetic school, whether he likes his relationship or not, has been the hobby of my life. And now that I have been engaged in this work as long as the average man lives, from birth to death (my first shorthand publications dating back prior to the birth-days of many of the younger members of the reportorial profession), it was natural that I should very much desire to be with you on this occasion. But a threatening manifestation in a recent spell of ill health sent me to the cooler and purer atmosphere of this mountainous region, and the beneficial effects I am deriving from out-door riding and walking, and abstinence from the

use of pen, pencil and books, induces me to forego the immediate pleasure of communing with you face to face, that I may cherish the prospect of lengthened life and usefulness in the work of reforming the written and printed representation of our language.

"In this work, thus comprehensively stated, I know there will be some who think, if they do not blurt out in words, 'Away with your reform; we are simply stenographers, and use the phonographic art as a profession, for the purpose of making money.' There are, no doubt, in these latter days, a good many such narrow minded and selfishly disposed young men, having as yet but the one idea of money making, or success in a profession, who have studied and mastered the mere art of phonetic shorthand, with scarcely a thought of the philosophical principles involved in that art. Still, the true and scientific theory for the representation of spoken language is recognized and being exemplified with more or less accuracy in their daily work, and, despite their senseless prejudice against reformers, they are themselves the active and incontestable demonstrators of the success of this reform. After the devotees of the fabulous art of alchemy had been for ages seeking the 'philosopher's stone,' that was to transmute all metals into gold, the science of chemistry was evolved by the radical reformers of those days. It was hooted as an impracticable innovation, and its disciples as visionary enthusiasts. But when the chemist began to apply the laws and forces of nature to the elements of matter, his crucible yielded what was more than the equivalent of gold, and chemistry was thenceforward a success. So it has been with all the sciences; at first they were hooted at as reforms, too radical ever to find acceptance. So it has been with all innovations, from the substitution of steam for muscle as a motive power, down to the incomprehensible harnessing of the 'lightning's lurid flame' as the instantaneous messenger of the mind. There is nothing that succeeds so well as success. And now that phonography has become a money making art, it is no longer the imaginary 'philosopher's stone,' about which hovered so many fanciful speculations as to its becoming the medium through which to write all the languages of the earth, and so forth and so on. Its success is of that substantial kind that gold alone secures. It provides bread, clothing, comfort and some of the luxuries of life for ourselves and families.

"But to what extent is it a success in this way?

"Thirty-five years ago, when the writer learned the art of phonography, there was not a phonographic writer, nor scarcely a shorthand reporter of any kind, in all the Western cities, and perhaps not a dozen in all the East, outside the national capital. Now there are a score or more in every city of any size, and in the larger cities hundreds of expert reporters. Every daily newspaper has its two or three shorthand men. Then there were none of that privileged class termed official stenographers. Now many of the States have laws providing for the appointment of shorthand reporters for the various courts, and securing them liberal compensation.

"Thirty years ago there were no shorthand amanuenses. Now many editors, authors, ministers, etc., have their phonographic secretaries, to write from dictation their articles, books, sermons, etc., while they devote their

minds exclusively to thought. Until within ten or fifteen years the race of shorthand clerks to railroad presidents, express and insurance companies' agents, business managers of large manufacturing and mercantile houses, etc., etc., was not known. Now they are multitudinous, and increasing rapidly as they can be produced. The telegraph, the telephone and the type-writer have been more potent agencies for bringing phonography into general use than all the early demonstrations of its scientific accuracy and universal applicability to the writing of all languages.

"The requirements of rapid and extensive business transactions have been more successful in the work of reform than the most eloquent arguments of able lecturers on the science of phonetic writing. And now, instead of the itinerant devotee occasionally canvassing our cities for students in the wonderful art of writing by sound, we have so-called 'colleges of phonography', and less pretentious, though no less useful, 'schools of shorthand,' where professors and teachers are employed the year round in teaching and training those young men and young ladies who eagerly seek the opportunity of learning an art that will give them honorable and profitable employment. Thus it is that phonography has become the true 'philosopher's stone,' that converts all it touches into gold. And thus it is, also, that many of its disciples think more of the gold their profession produces than they do of the philosophical principles and beneficent tendencies involved in its practice. But let them ignore the truths of phonetic science as they may, and hoot the idea of being spelling reformers as much as their circumscribed intellects may prompt, the fact still stands boldly out in the mottos and maxims of their profession, and the truth flows nimbly from their pens and pencils, that they do write in a reformed orthography of the English language. Like Galileo, they may deny, in the face of a frowning world, the truth of science; but, nevertheless, 'the world does move,' and with it advances the writing and spelling reform.

"The fact that the inexorable demands of business have forced the over-taxed fingers of the hard workers of the world to abandon the cumbrous and tedious incongruities of the old orthography in the most important departments of industry, demonstrates the solution of the problem, how shall the English language be written and printed in the future. It has torn away the superstitious drapery that has enshrouded the language of our fathers for ages, dissipated the notion that there was sanctity in the crude and meaningless combinations of letters in the musty tomes of our fathers, and shown beyond the possibility of doubt that the young and vigorous speech of 300,000,000 of the most progressive people of the earth may be and must be modified in its structure and dress, as the demands of science, business and art require.

"The fact that thousands and tens of thousands of the most intelligent and progressive classes of men, not only in England and the United States, but in all habitable quarters of the globe, now employ one form of the phonetic theory of writing and spelling, forces upon the minds of all reasonable men the conclusion that the phonetic system of longhand writing and printing will also ultimately become a success. Its advantages to the untold millions who are to learn and to use written and printed English will be almost infinitely greater than the benefits of shorthand. In the developments of science and art

every generation adds new branches of study in our schools and colleges, and it is only by simplifying the rudiments of education that children are enabled to obtain any knowledge of the higher and more profitable courses of study. The phonetic system of spelling, by saving two years out of three necessary to become good readers and spellers in the present method, is the 'philosopher's stone' that is as sure to win success as the same kind of influence has won success for phonetic shorthand. A more simple and consistent orthography and the omission of superfluous letters in writing are necessities that are fully recognized by the best educators and statesmen, and which will in due time be heartily accepted, as phonography is now accepted, as the governing principle in the representation of our language

"And now a word or two as to what this convention may do to promote the further success of the art which has given it an existence. If it does anything except to 'eat, drink and be merry, for to-morrow it may die', it should be to take some initial step toward harmonizing and unifying the more or less conflicting modifications of phonography, in order that those who come after us may, if we may not, enjoy the many advantages to be derived from writing practically the same system, with only such different methods of teaching the art as experience and ingenuity may afford. When the writer published his first manual of phonography, twenty-five years ago, there was but one system in use, the same in this country as in England, and there were as accurate reporters then as now, when we have half a dozen so-called systems. Then we could all read each other's writing with more or less readiness, according to the correctness and skill of the writer, and it was often a great advantage in writing out reports to be able to pass one's notes to his copyists for transcription as fast as taken down, instead of waiting to read them out in 'takes,' as is now so generally done. The present method is a great tax on the reporter's time, as well as on the time of the amanuensis in having to wait for the convenience of the reporter to give him his dictation. In this respect there are rival systems of shorthand that may have the advantage of phonography in time, unless something is done soon to bring the various manuals of the art into greater harmony.

"Two years ago an attempt was made by the writer to accomplish something in this direction, by embodying in his Eclectic Manual of Phonography as many of the abbreviating features of other writers as could be consistently adopted, and at the same time preserve the fundamental features of the system from being loaded down with a mass of arbitrary and useless expedients. He does not claim to have accomplished all that is possible in this desirable work, and would gladly co-operate with other authors, or with a committee on the unification of phonography that might be appointed by this convention, if it is to be a permanent organization, in any measures that may be recommended for this purpose.

"It is possible that there may be a few members of this convention who, unfortunately for them, adopted some antiquated, unphonetic system of shorthand, and who might, therefore, object to being counted in the proposition to unify them. If there are any such, they might hold, off in some corner of the hall, a little indignation meeting or jollification jamboree of their own, while

the phonographers are trying to settle their little differences in their usual amiable manner."

On motion, the President and Secretary were authorized to assign topics for essays and discussions for the next annual meeting.

The President—"This subject was assigned to Mr. H. C. Deming, of Harrisburg, but the latest advices from Mr. Deming inform us that he is disappointed in getting here. We have therefore requested one of Chicago's oldest reporters, Mr. Henry Binmore, to address you on this subject."

Mr. Henry Binmore said:

"*Mr. President, Members of the Convention:*

"Are there any means under the by-laws of this convention by which I can move to dismiss from office its Secretary? If so, I would state my charges against him thus: Last evening, upon your festive occasion, at which I am free to say I greatly enjoyed myself, he called upon me, at fifteen minutes notice, to respond to the toast to which our worthy Mayor was to reply. Unfortunately for the convention, and certainly for myself, the Mayor was absent from the city. I might have excused this action on the part of the Secretary, had he not introduced me as an old man. But so far as the subject in hand is concerned, I may say I am an old man, and perhaps, therefore, he will stand excused. I am now asked to speak, in the stead of a gentleman I never knew, upon the subject of 'Convention Reporting,' and not to waste words, I will proceed to state what I know of convention reporting, dating it back to the year 1848. I trust our absent brother will treat me kindly for illy succeeding in that he might do so much better.

"The conventions I attended in 1848 were much like the conventions I shall last speak of. They were military conventions.

"Mr. President, as a reporter, I would divide conventions for reporting purposes into eight classes. There would be our ward convention, our county convention, which includes the district, our State convention, our national convention, our legislative and constitutional conventions, which I would put upon the same ground. Religious conventions I would make an exception. Conventions like this I will tell you of, and military conventions I will speak of. I will reserve this till the last, for these can be spoken of only in words of sorrow. I find I have omitted one which I should first speak of, and that is the social convention which you have met in. The social convention is one where you should use your intelligence in reporting it, and you should only speak as reporters, as my lord chief justice said of the justice of the peace, 'To his faults be a little blind; to his virtues very kind.'

"In my first classification you will find I include original politics, but I do not include a primary convention. A primary convention is something which to worship will not break any commandment, for nothing in the earth beneath or the heavens above can ever be represented in or by it. Generally it is a party of scalawags. It can only be reported by a policeman. The first policeman will probably tell you an untruth, but it makes no difference, the canvass will correct all. It is only a matter of stuffing ballot boxes, and there is no sanctity in the whole thing. Avoid it as you would a centipede.

"Rising in dignity we have the ward convention. Here you must not expect to be able to tell the truth. You must do as Mr. Abbott has told you, make your own report upon such facts as you may glean. But if you tell the truth, be careful to watch yourself for the next few days, or perhaps until election day, lest you should meet a billy or a bull dog.

"In your county convention your rule will be to prepare yourself to write on somebody's back. Care nothing about light, and when through scramble your papers into your pocket as quick as possible and —— If you are writing for a paper of any kind of politics, be careful to introduce enough applause on its side to make the other side appear disgraceful. In this regard you are not to consider the interests of the party, but only the peculiar leanings of the paper, for the papers of these days are divided into special politics, subject to the grand feature of the party. If you are well acquainted with the parties present, as I presume you will be, you will introduce into your report that A B struck C D's nose and made it bleed, and A B was carried around on chairs. The convention will think you are a little god, and either carry you off on their shoulders or take you down to a saloon where they think they can make you drunk. Accept that as complimentary, and leave at once when you want to get your report home quickly. We have nothing to do with the honor of carrying on this convention.

"Now to proceed to State conventions. The State convention is a wonderful institution. Business is generally so hurriedly transacted that all the reporter has to fear is that every speaker will deny that he said that which he did say, and which the reporter has faithfully transcribed. In this convention money is no object. You will be offered any amount, from ten cents up to a dollar, to make a speech for a man. Of course a reporter will accept no sum of money, especially for the purpose for which it is generally offered. Here you may join a reporter of some contending newspaper, and you had better be somewhat particular as to what you report; therefore, I would advise you, in such a convention, to report in the main correctly, so far as is possible in the confusion which is sure to be around you. Unless you confine yourself to your private room, you will be bored all night with visitors. The best way is to have a dummy to go and do duty with the delegates who think they own the reporter. If you make any mistakes in reporting a State convention, be careful that they are mistakes that the editor of your paper will voluntarily swear to as a true report. If not, you may be shipped.

"We come now to national conventions. Here we have almost the dignity of Congress, and should have the dignity of Congress if politics were not matters of caucus. That they are matters of caucus has nothing to do with the

reporter. He has nothing to do with politics, as a rule. I have only attended eleven national conventions, and from the experience of those I should advise you to be careful, for the records of these are things to be read in the future, and you may have to guard against confusion, the bickerings of candidates and parties within a party. It is in these conventions the duty of a reporter, who generally takes but a turn, to correctly report, as though he were reporting a legislative convention, of which hereafter, except that he is not put to the inconveniences subject to a legislative convention. In the national conventions I have assisted to report no two reports of them have ever agreed, and no two speakers have been reported alike. I have sometimes thought that there was an editorial hand which changed the speeches of the gentlemen who spoke.

"The next class of conventions brings us to those which are of the law and under the law. First we commence with the legislative, that is, the meeting of the legislature. In this regard my experience is limited to New York, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana. They are all very differently conducted. In Missouri the hero of Chepultepec made an argument by firing at Darnes, of Scott County, a revolver, missing Darnes and striking me. That I called the *argumentum ad captandum*. It convinced me, but did not convince Mr. Darnes. In that State you will think reporting was a somewhat precarious business at the price of five dollars per day, although it was paid in gold. In Kentucky, when an objectionable speech was being made the lights were turned out. In Tennessee, when I was there, bullets used to come through the chamber windows. In New York the sessions were held in such close rooms that half the people fainted if they did not leave, but the reporter had to stay.

"But this does not tell you how to report a legislative convention. The legislative convention is to be reported, according to the words that are used, with precision. Not that what you shall report will ever appear in print, for you will have one-half of the legislature to visit you during the night, and if, as in some of our Western States it used to be, they carry demijohns of whisky upon their saddle bows, you will either not be able to write your reports at all, or you will have to yield them up to the speakers, that they may correct them. Get them once into your office, and let the corrections be made there. It will save you a great many headaches. The constitutional convention is to be treated much in the same way, except that it is generally permissible to allow parties who speak to revise their speeches. But if you should happen to be at a convention such as Wyandotte or Topeka in times of 'bleeding Kansas,' or even at Leavenworth, you may expect the house to adjourn to see the hanging of some turbulent spirit who thinks that freedom is of no account as against slavery, as was the instance in my case from the Shawnee House bluff at Leavenworth.

"We now come to the religious convention. Be sure you do not get into the 'amen corner.' I believe the greatest impropriety of my life was at a large religious convention in this city, held in Crosby's Opera House. The reporters were in the orchestra, and there were certain sedate parties who thought it their duty to respond to all pious sayings that were uttered. I am

afraid that on one occasion their piety had got so great that my remarks were not in accordance with their expressions; they excluded my hearing, and I used a double d. This class of convention you must report faithfully, and reporting it faithfully you will be all but cursed, for the members are always unprepared with speeches, but when called on produce long rolls, showing weeks of preparation. If you ask them for manuscript, having relied upon them instead of taking notes, you will find they have none, but after you have written out your notes, or what few you did take, you will find the city editor has them in full, as the speaker intended to deliver them. All you can do at this class of convention is to report correctly all you hear and see, for it is a reporter's duty to report as well what he sees as what he hears. This advice I give you for the reason that you can never give satisfaction. You must simply take your chances.

"We come now to the last convention, and to the only one which I hope none of you will ever be invited to attend. Judge Booth, last evening at your banquet, speaking of the reporter's art, expressed his regret that reporters had not been so plentiful in the days of Hannibal as they now are. He quoted to us the historical words to his followers, attributed by Livy to the great general, and wondered whether it were true they were delivered, or whether they were a part of the literature of the historian. I hold in my hand the report of a battle, a report of a division of our army at Shiloh. You see it contains but few figures, and yet it tells all the tale that the reporter could tell. It says that of 10,000 men who went into the field vigorous and happy, anxious perhaps for a fight, about 1,100 remained to do duty on the following day. That, it seems to me, would answer the question of the probability of the grand speech of Hannibal to his army before the Alps. If ever you should be there, or in like position, you need take no paper, no pencil, but merely rely upon the fact that the bayonet is your pen, and your sword your only guide.

"Mr. President and Members of the Convention, this has been somewhat desultory, by reason of want of preparation. I am thankful to you for the attention you have given me, and will make room for something better."

THE CALIGRAPH.

By D. L. Scott Browne, of New York City.

"Not much more than a decade ago it was thought that longhand writing was amply sufficient for all the purposes for communicating thought. To-day it is unsatisfactory as a means of record of matters of even small importance. A revolution is being wrought in writing. The demand of the time is for a more rapid means for general communication, combined with perfect legibility, and in business correspondence, susceptible of duplication. There is at present

an impetus in this direction never before experienced. The telegraph, telephone, phonograph, phonography, electric pen, stylographic pen, stenographic machines and photography are just now in a grand rivalry for supremacy. We believe that the death knell of longhand writing has been sounded. Shorthand and type-writing are now the most successful means employed. To the student of writing (and we must admit that the history of writing as now developing will be quite as interesting a study as that of any of the arts and sciences) it may be interesting in this connection to show how the art of type-writing has gradually superseded longhand for business purposes since the year 1873, and especially in connection with our own profession. By longhand writing at that time it was only possible to make three duplicates, but now, by the aid of the type-writer and the hektograph we make twenty-five duplicates and upwards, and by type-writing and lithographing we are able to make an indefinite number of duplicates. Thus for the purpose of making out price lists, statements and circulars for business firms the caligraph has become invaluable and indispensable. The tedious process in use eight years ago is done away with for the pleasant and more perfect method of the writing machine, which can be found in all the leading and most enterprising business houses in the country.

"The stenographer has also shared in the benefits derived from the machine, in being better qualified for his business when an operator on it, and, inasmuch as he can do double the work in a given time, his services are sought after with more eagerness than heretofore. And while his work is less laborious, his compensation is greatly increased, on account of his greater service to his employer.

"A great objection to writing machines heretofore has been their inconvenience for the writer, he being forced to run from his desk to the little tucked-up stand to which his machine is attached, and so dividing himself between two places in doing his work. The caligraph is a great improvement in this regard, as it can be placed on the writer's desk or library table, occupying so little room that it is not inconvenient, and it may be removed with one hand to any part of the desk, or set down on the floor or up on a shelf. This could never be done with the old type-writer. It was always in the way, except where it belonged, on a table by itself, and then it was always out of the way, the operator being obliged to make a jumping-jack of himself between his desk and the type-writer.

"But the capping climax of the caligraph is found in the No. 2 italic machine, which is a writing machine that *writes*, and not a so-called type-writer, which only *prints*. The most serious objection heretofore offered by business men against writing machines is that the work done by them looks like a printed circular, which does not appeal personally to the receiver's mind with the force of a written communication. By the combination of the rare mechanical ability and the vast experience of the inventor of the caligraph, together with genuine public spirited enterprise in the manufacture of it, the No. 2 italic caligraph has been produced, which is a capital and small letter machine, with script type, and it is the *multum in parvo*, *ne plus ultra*, for the present, at least.

"Some twelve years ago Mr. G. W. N. Yost was invited by Mr. James Densmore to go to 32 Pine Street, New York, and see the type-writer, a machine to write with type instead of the pen, which had then just been finished in Milwaukee, Wis., by C. Latham Sholes, Carlos Glidden and others. Mr. Densmore had acquired an interest in the invention, and the machine had been sent to New York for examination. After seeing it Mr. Yost expressed the opinion that the idea was a good one, but that the machine was not invented yet, that there was no commercial value to it. Mr. Densmore somewhat shared in this opinion, so much so that the machine was returned to Milwaukee for the purpose of having it 'invented,' and through the persistent efforts of Mr. Densmore the inventors were induced to keep at work for four long weary years, during which time nearly fifty experimental machines were made, each one differing more or less from the other, until December, 1872, when Mr. Yost was invited to Milwaukee to see the INVENTED type-writer. After a very full examination of the machine as then made, he became interested in it, and, in connection with Mr. Densmore, took one of the Milwaukee machines in February, 1873, to the Remington Armory, in Ilion, N. Y., and made a contract to have one thousand of them built, which machines were to be taken in lots of two hundred and fifty each, cash in advance.

"During this time Mr. Yost had fully examined and tested the matter of writing by machine, and had arrived at the conclusion that if the conditions could be made right, that is, if writing machines could be made cheap enough so the masses could afford to buy them, and good enough so they could use them, that millions of them could be sold. He found by actual test that an expert with a good writing machine could do from three to ten hours work in one hour, and do it much easier and better than was possible with a pen. He became satisfied that the writing machine was a greater labor saving machine than the sewing machine, and that while the sewing machine saved the cheapest labor in market, the writing machine saved the most expensive labor.

"Not only were the first thousand machines taken, but between the fall of 1873 and the winter of 1877 nearly four thousand more were made and sold, mainly through the energy and intense labor of the inventor of the caligraph. During this time many improvements had been made and adopted.

"In February, 1877, Mr. Yost came to the conclusion that the type-writer of the future was not *invented yet*, and he decided that he must have better machines, for he found the defects of the type-writer as made so great that only a small per cent. of those sold could be kept in use. He returned to Ilion, and went into the factory determined to overcome at least some of the defects in the machines as then made. Up to this time the type-writer was so constructed as to write capital letters only, while there was a great and growing demand for a machine that would write with both capital and small letters. Mr. Yost bought some crude ideas of B. A. Brooks, as well as some from other parties, and with the assistance of W. K. Jenne, of Ilion, N. Y., and in spite of the opposition of his associates, invented and perfected the No. 2, or upper and lower case, type-writer as now manufactured by E. Remington & Sons. He also invented and literally forced the manufacture of the No. 4 type-writer as now manufactured at Ilion; he also remodeled the No.

1 machine, and overcame many of the defects in the type-writer as then made. After spending two more years of herculean efforts to introduce the improved machines, he arrived at the conclusion, in the summer of 1879, that the ideal machine was not *yet* invented. By this time between five and six thousand machines had been made and sold, and the conviction was deepened on his mind that the conclusions he had arrived at six years before would be more than realized if only writing machines could be made good enough so the masses could use them and keep them in order, and cheap enough so that they could afford to buy them.

"In the summer of 1879 he set to work in earnest to invent the ideal writing machine, and the caligraph is the result. He has a factory in New York, employing upwards of eighty hands, manufacturing the caligraph. The works are being rapidly enlarged, and the production increased to meet the growing demand. It is now fully believed that in the caligraph the public will find the ideal writing machine. Mr. Yost's long experience and thorough knowledge of the defects of the old style of writing machines have enabled him to combine in the caligraph all the good and to leave out all the bad elements in the machines as heretofore made. He has also been fortunate enough to secure the full legal right to use such of the inventions belonging to the old system of machines as is required to manufacture the caligraph, and having fully perfected the latter in all its details, he now feels that all the legal and all the mechanical difficulties have been overcome, and after all these years of sowing the harvest time is approaching.

"The advantages of the caligraph are so many and so great that only a few of them will be referred to in this connection. In the first place, the machine is much more portable than the writing machines heretofore made. It is built of the very best material that money will buy, the best of steel castings being used instead of common cast iron. The best of everything in the way of materials, and no pains or expense is being spared to make the workmanship as perfect as possible. Another great feature is the caligraph is so constructed that an ordinary expert operator can keep the machine in perfect order till it is completely worn out.

"It is the smallest, lightest, and most portable lever machine in the market.

"The No. 1, or smallest, caligraph has forty-eight characters, being four more than any other all capital machine. Besides, it writes a longer line.

"The No. 3 caligraph has fifty-four characters, and is especially adapted to manifolding, and other heavy office work.

"The No. 2 caligraph is the only writing machine that is made with italic upper and lower case, or capital and small letter type. This style of type has become exceedingly popular. The No. 2 machine has also a separate key and type-bar for each character, avoiding the complications in that class of machines having two characters on one type-bar.

"The carriage is always free to move from left to right without being released a very great improvement.

"By means of a convenient release key, it can also be instantly moved from right to left to any desired position.

"The price of the caligraph is much less than that of other lever writing machines, and is as low as can be afforded and leave margin enough to successfully introduce the machine.

"The caligraph has many other advantages, but to appreciate them fully one must see and use the machine."

The caligraph and type writer were placed on a table before the audience, and the improved mechanical parts of the former shown, by comparison, over the latter.

Mr. Charles T. Brown, of Chicago, being called upon to describe the mechanism of and the work done by

THE AUTOMATIC FOLIO REGISTER, OR WORD COUNTER,

which was on exhibition at the convention, spoke as follows:

"*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

"The object of the Automatic Folio Register, or Word Counter, is to count the number of words printed on the type-writer and caligraph, at the time and as they are printed. The machine is at present constructed for and attached only to the No. 2 and No. 4 type-writers; and I shall explain it as attached to them as you see it here. The registering part of the machine consists of a dial, divided into one hundred parts, with two hands, like the hands of a clock. As each word is printed on the type-writer the larger hand moves one space, thus making the entire circuit of the dial in one hundred words, or one folio; as the larger hand counts the one hundredth word the smaller hand moves forward one space, registering that folio, the larger hand keeping on and commencing a new folio, if at the same time the type-writer is working. In this way the machine will count one hundred folios before it repeats. This fully describes the method of registering the words. How it is done I will endeavor to explain.

"On the shaft on which the two hands are placed there are also placed two wheels, with one hundred ratched teeth in each. There are also two levers, with little dogs, or ratchets, working in the teeth in the wheels. These levers that move the wheels are placed on a shaft directly under the wheels, one of the levers being fixed to that shaft and one loose. The loose lever is pressed firmly by a spring against a cam or eccentric placed on the shaft of the wheel, moving the larger hand; as this shaft and cam turn, the lever is forced gradually back, until the shaft and cam complete one revolution, when the lever is freed, and presses forward, making the wheel carrying the smaller hand move one tooth, counting one folio on the dial. The shaft with the fixed lever has a rocking motion, carrying the lever backward and forward one tooth at a time. This shaft is connected with the type-writer by the arm over the levers, attached by wires passing through between the levers to a cross-bar underneath all these levers, in the same manner as the bar moving the carriage of the type-writer, with this exception, that it does not run under the space

bar levers, as it does in the type-writer, but the space bar levers are connected with the rock shaft of the register, to bring it forward when the space bar is struck. By this arrangement, as you strike the first letter in the word, the lever carrying the dog which works in the rachet wheel carrying the larger hand is brought back and gotten into position, and remains there while the remaining letters in the word are being written. When the space bar is struck after having written the word the lever is carried forward one tooth, registering the word. The lever remains in this forward position, so that if you strike it any number of times you will not cause it to count again until you have struck a letter, which will again draw the lever and dog back, and the machine will register a new word. You will notice, as I have explained, that it is only the first letter in the word and the first time the space bar is struck after the word that affects the register in any way. This mode of working the register *seems* at first objectionable, on account of the first letter in the word having to do this extra work, but, in reality, the register is so constructed that there is no perceptible increase of strength required in striking the first letter of the word or the space bar after the word, from striking the second letter or the second stroke of the space bar. This is accomplished through the action of a lock, which stops the wheel from going more than one space at a time, and at the same time it does not drag in any way upon the wheel, so that the only effort required in working the register is that necessary to move the hands around, which, of course, is very slight. An additional purpose which this lock serves is that when the type-writer is operated slowly the lock will act gently upon the wheel, allowing it to move but one space, and when it is operated rapidly, and the keys struck with greater force as well as greater rapidity, the lock acts forcibly. The result of this lock and the light construction of the movable parts of the register is that it is absolutely impossible to detect any difference in the operation of the type-writer when combined with this attachment from that of the type-writer without the register attached."

By a Member—"Mr. Brown, how do you prevent the machine from registering several words after you have struck a period, when you strike the space-bar several times before commencing the next sentence?"

Mr. Brown—"Perhaps I have not made that sufficiently clear. The better way to express it will be to compare the action of the register to the action of a gun. In making this comparison, I would say that in striking the first letter of the word you load the gun. In striking the space-bar after the word you pull the trigger, and the gun goes off, and it registers one word. You can pull the trigger, but it will never go off again until you have loaded it, and it will never be reloaded until you strike a letter. Bear in mind that the first letter loads it, and any further letter can do no more."

By a Member—"How is the machine attached to the type-writer?"

Mr. Brown—"The machine is placed on the little shelf at the back of the No. 2 and No. 4 type-writers, and is adjusted to the machine before it leaves the machine shop, so that it is simply placed on the shelf and fastened by a set screw, and the connection wires placed under the levers of the type-writers. It can be done in ten minutes by one accustomed to the type-writer."

John T. Bell, Omaha, offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

"*Resolved*, That the thanks of the International Association of Short-hand Writers of the United States and Canada are due and are hereby tendered the press of Chicago for their interesting reports of the proceedings of the Association.

"*Resolved*, By the International Association of Shorthand Writers of the United States and Canada, that in his complete and exhaustive compilation of the laws of the various States regarding the use of stenography in the courts, Mr. S. C. Rodgers, of Troy, N. Y., has rendered the shorthand profession an invaluable service, and is entitled to its heartiest thanks.

"*Resolved*, That the proprietors of the Palmer House are hereby tendered our hearty thanks for their courtesy and kindness to the members of this convention."

On motion the following members of the Chicago press in attendance at the convention were elected honorary members of the International Association of Shorthand Writers of the United States and Canada:

E. R. Dillingham, *Chicago Times;* Chas. D. Wright, *Inter-Ocean;* H. A. Ely, *Chicago Herald;* W. B. Hicks, *Chicago Tribune;* Platt Lewis, *Daily News.*

The convention adjourned.

THE BANQUET.

At 8 P. M. the ladies and gentlemen of the convention assembled in the spacious parlors of the Palmer House, and spent an hour in social chat, when, at 9 o'clock, Mr. Willis Howe, the genial man of the Palmer House, announced everything in readiness, and, headed by the Secretaries, they marched into the large dining hall, brilliant with electric lights, under which, on the tables ranged on either side of the hall, was a fine display of fruits and flowers. The tables were surrounded by the ladies and gentlemen, when Mr. Dan Brown, selected as toastmaster of the occasion, called the attention of the guests to the fact that they were present to enjoy the feast spread before them, and to which he bade them welcome in the name of the convention.

At each plate was a button-hole boquet of smilax, pinks and tube roses, and a tastefully arranged *menu*, on the front page of which were the words, "Banquet of the International Convention of Shorthand Writers of the United States and Canada, at the Palmer House, Thursday Evening, Sept. 1st, 1881," the last page containing the monogram of the Convention, "I. C. S. W.," in gold and black letters. The following was served as

MENU.

Green Turtle Soup.
Consommé.
Broiled Bluefish.
Parisienne Potatoes.
Boiled Young Capon, Cream Sauce.
Boiled Leg of Southdown Mutton.

Roast Spring Chicken.
Lamb, Mint Sauce.
Filet of Beef, aux champignons.
Croquettes of Sweetbreads, aux petit pois.
Pigeon's Sauvages, en Compote.
Macaroni a l' Italienne.
Roast Prairie Chicken.
Saratoga Potatoes.
Mashed Potatoes. Baked Sweet Potatoes.
Lima Beans. Stewed Tomatoes.
Fried Egg Plant.
Lobster Salad. Spiced Oysters.
Sliced Tomatoes.
Charlotte Russe.
Madeira Jelly. Assorted Cake.
Neapolitan Ice Cream.
Roman Punch.
Pears. Peaches. Grapes.
Coffee. Biscuit. Stilton Cheese.

An hour was spent in pleasant chat and feasting. Dan Brown, toastmaster, said :

"*Ladies and Gentlemen :*—Now that we have eaten, we will turn for a short time, for a change, to shorthand. The Hon. Carter Harrison was expected to be with us this evening. In his absence, which I think his loss and not ours, I will call upon Mr. Henry Binmore, a venerable member of the profession, and, I believe, the oldest reporter in the city of Chicago, to respond to the first toast of the evening,

"THE CENTER OF THE SHORTHAND WORLD, CHICAGO."

Mr. Binmore said :

"*Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen :*

"There is no person in this assembly regrets as much as I do the absence of the Mayor of Chicago from this assembly, but as I know he is absent from the city, I trust that, after I shall have occupied your attention for a few minutes, you will not regret more than I do his absence, but I am afraid you will. I am called upon to speak of Chicago as the center of the shorthand world. If Mayor Harrison were here, he, in his splendid language, might have entertained you, and I could have learned what he would have said of reporters, after having been all these years surrounded by them. He would have launched you into the seventh heaven of bliss before I could have stated the bare facts, but perhaps the remarks of the Secretary will warrant me in stating what I have to say. He has said that I am an old reporter, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, I am the oldest west of the Allegheny Mountains.

I was followed here by the present Assistant Secretary of State of the United States, Mr. Rob't R. Hitt. In those days we gave our law reports for nothing, and gave the reports of celebrated speeches for the sake of getting our advertisements on the top of the reports.

"Since that time things have changed considerably, and from there being two reporters, as there were in 1857, and one in 1861, there are now, as I am instructed, three hundred in active employment. In other words, if they should all be attending to law business and dependent upon it, there would be one to every four lawyers in the city of Chicago, but we keep our offices in Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis, radiating from Chicago, and then having a large field.

"From Chicago I have passed on reporting expeditions in those old days to St. Louis to report a single speech; to Memphis to report the silver-tongued Yancey; to North Carolina and South Carolina as well; to Richmond to participate in the pleasant times of the yellow fever; to Amboy to meet the Mormons; to Kansas to gather the wisdoms of its many constitutional conventions, and to pass over into the Utah war, so-called, under Buchanan; to Harper's Ferry to be present, as I was the first, on the John Brown raid; back again at his trial and execution; to Washington to meet Breckinridge, and to follow him to listen to his rebel speech at Lexington, and again back when he chose to make his corrections at Frankfort. From Chicago I have branched to every State in this Union, except Oregon and California, and from this city both Hitt and I radiated out to nearly every county in this State, to follow the gallant Douglas or the lamented Lincoln, and then afterward to Mobile and elsewhere with Douglas.

"This Chicago was early a center of shorthand reporting, and when we were followed by the one reporter who from 1861 to 1864 was the sole reporter in Chicago on general work, and who never had time to radiate, the isolation ceased, and from that time shorthand business has had herein its veritable center.

"It would be useless to attempt to mention those who have followed, or the expedients used for the purpose of duplicating copy. Suffice it to say, from that little beginning there has come into existence a number of firms who I know traverse the States as I have traversed them, excepting that the exigencies are not the same. In nine States of this Union, it is fair to state, check notes are always made by the reporter from Chicago, and within a few days will proceed reporters from Chicago to an Eastern city, to record one of the most momentous trials that has ever occurred in the United States.

"In speaking of Chicago as a center of shorthand, of course I am limited to my own experience, but my experience to practical reporters, as I understand most of you are, is probably as valuable as general facts stated by a person who never has traveled twelve hundred miles with no change of linen but a clean collar.

"I detain you too long. I am merely drawn into the way to introduce the hilarity and joyousness that you will be subjected to, and having broken the ice, allow me now to retire, remembering that this Secretary of yours gave me but fifteen minutes notice."

The toastmaster announced as the second toast of the evening,

"THE FUTURE OF SHORTHAND,"

and called upon Mr. T. C. Rose, of Ithaca, N. Y., to respond, who did so as follows:

"*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

"When Mr. Moynahan was with us at our State Association meeting at Saratoga, two years ago, he assured us that in Chicago when they expected a man to make a speech they gave him three or four weeks notice, and he was thereby enabled to retire to his sanctum, and prepare his *extemporaneous* remarks, and have them ready when the time arrived. Having received no such timely notice, I was congratulating myself upon the thought that I was not to be called upon this evening, and I was taken somewhat by surprise when I was told to-day that I would be expected to respond to this toast, and I have had no time to make preparation since then, as my time has been fully occupied in attending the sessions of the Association.

"But, ladies and gentlemen, when I look about me and see so many enthusiastic votaries of the art, I can have no doubt as to the future of shorthand; and if our association shall serve no other purpose than to bring us together once a year simply for a *social* gathering, we will have accomplished something in the right direction; and if we shall be successful in the attainment of the objects and purposes for which we have been to-day organized, as stated by Mr. Bell, we will have taken a long step in the direction of securing an honorable and satisfactory future, and I doubt not those who shall take our places in the years to come will look back to the present occasion as marking the beginning of a new era in the history of the profession.

"It has been but a few years since the art of shorthand writing reached the dignity of being called a profession in this country, and yet to-day we find its practitioners steadily advancing into almost all channels of usefulness and industry. We find them in the counting room, in the banking house, and in the railroad office. We find them in our courts, in dingy law chambers, and in our legislative halls. In short, wherever time is considered the equivalent of money the shorthand writer has only to be given a trial in order to be duly appreciated.

"We may be said to be still in our infancy, and if we shall continue with the same steady advancement that has marked our course during the past decade, by the time we shall have attained our majority there will not be a nook or corner throughout the length and breadth of our country where the art of shorthand will not be looked upon as the greatest time and labor saving invention of the age.

"I thank you for the honor conferred upon me, and also for the pleasure of being present at this most royal banquet this evening."

The toastmaster said:

"I desire to propose a subject which does not appear on our list as the third toast,

'THE NEBRASKA STATE STENOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION,'

the pioneers of the movement which has brought together at this time so many members of the profession from different parts of the country, and will ask Mr. John T. Bell, President of that Association, to respond."

John T. Bell, Omaha, Nebraska, said:

"*Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

"I had not the remotest idea that I would be expected to speak this evening, not even the time allotted to Mr. Rose, as the announcement of the toast by our toastmaster is the first I heard of the subject. I can, however, say a few words in regard to our Association, which was organized about two years and a half ago, and has held monthly meetings at Omaha. It is a most harmonious body of earnest reporters. There are about twenty members, most of whom are residents of Omaha, employed in the courts and railroad offices. I believe I was the first stenographer ever employed in the courts of Nebraska. That was in 1870, after which I left that State and came to Chicago in 1871, and was employed with Ely, Burnham & Bartlett until the time of the fire, when I returned after some wandering to Omaha, in 1875.

"There are now in the State of Nebraska some twenty-five or thirty reporters, who generally get together at the legislature in winter, and we have succeeded in securing the passage of what I consider a very satisfactory law. There are six court districts in our State, which hold terms five or six months in the year, and in addition to that the stenographers do a great deal of newspaper and other general work. The outlook for Nebraska is very prosperous, indeed. A great deal of interest is manifested by the law makers, judges and lawyers particularly. We have found that the best friend of the reporter is the intelligent lawyer. We have had changes made in our law during the last three terms of our legislature, and we find no opposition at all; the law makers are willing to give us anything we ask for within reason."

The toastmaster—"Many of you have no doubt read with interest the adventures of the 'Shorthand Tramp Abroad.' We are glad to announce that he has returned to his native country, and we expected his presence to-night, but he has sent in his contribution instead, and we will ask President Bennett

to read for us the response of Frank Kraft, St. Louis, Missouri, to the fourth toast,

"'THE SHORTHAND TRAMP AT HOME.'"

Mr. Bennett read the following:

"Your invitation of August 12th, to attend the International Convention of Shorthand Writers, and to speak in response to the toast, 'Shorthand in Missouri,' has just reached me, having been forwarded from St. Louis to my suburban villa, 'way out here in Kansas, where I have taken refuge from 'seeany-scurrence' cases, and from the heat and burden of the day. In the matter of the former I have been successful, for a shorthand feller out on these 'pe-raries,' the nearest neighbor several miles distant, is a rarity, few and far between. But the heat I did not escape. I have stumbled into a country that is being visited by a drouth, and, to accumulate horror upon horror's head, I awake to the fact that Kansas is a prohibition State, where it requires a fifty-cent prescription to get a five-cent 'smile' of benzine.

"I am domiciled in the bosom of a warm-hearted relative, who does not suspect the incarnadined nature of his visitor's profession, and as our post office is about ten miles distant, and our mail is brought to us only when we go after it, I was unable sooner to respond to your courteous invitation by letter, for in person I cannot respond, being on the hospital list with defective eyesight, nervous prostration and a broken heart. My physicians have strictly enjoined upon me to indulge in no excitement, save that which may naturally result from a gourd full of cold water and meditations on scriptural texts; the former part of the prescription I am of necessity following, but the latter part is sorely neglected, or else sadly diverted.

"You ask me to say a few words in answer to 'Shorthand in Missouri.' I fear the lot has fallen on the wrong Matthias, for my knowledge of shorthand matters in Missouri, outside of the city of St. Louis, is severely limited. I have not heard that the profession of law reporting has representatives anywhere within its boundaries other than at St. Louis, save at Kansas City, probably at Hannibal, and possibly at Jefferson City. We of St. Louis are not in the habit of ascribing much shorthand ability to the State, outside of two or three cities. So little does the city of St. Louis think of the State of Missouri, that not long since there was quite a talk of applying to Illinois for admission, bring the other end of our bridge over, so to speak, and Kansas City shook her gory locks and threatened to fly off the other end, and secede to Kansas. I need hardly add that this latter design was before the enactment of the Kansas prohibition measure. That the Missouri 'woods is full of 'em,' scattered all over the hill-tops, each with his little six by four book and Faber, admits of no doubt; for have we not had an evidence of the value placed upon our sacred calling in the effort made last winter by a hoary-headed Cincinnatus from the extreme southwest, who introduced a bill in the legislature appointing official stenographers to all courts at six dollars per day, actual time employed,—

in civil cases to be taxed as costs; in criminal cases free gratis, for nothing. With your permission, therefore, I will confine my few remarks to the craft in St. Louis.

"*Imprimis*, we number, professional law reporters, fifteen members; of this number, two are ladies. In a city which thought itself biger (biger with one g, please,) than Chicago, this does not seem an overwhelming amount of stenographic gray matter, but if any new hand thinks there is a fine opening for a young man, just let him try it on, and he will quickly realize that the clothes don't fit him; that the impression so thoughtlessly set in motion by deacon Ritchie on the waves of sound and light, to the effect that the reporter is principally occupied in clipping coupons off government bonds and banqueting visiting brethren, is a delusion and a snare, and the truth is not in it.

"The pioneers of shorthand in this city are still with us, the elder of whom, Mr. E. T. Allen, has, however, laid aside the omnipotent wand and donned the barrister's wig and gown; he very deservedly ranks among our foremost attorneys. Mr. Walbridge, the assistant pioneer, is still in the traces. From this workshop of these Titans there sprang an almost numberless progeny, many of whom have gone to other pastures, while others linger around the old pen, swinging independent shingles and stealing cases with the best of us. One pleasing feature of the craft here is that we number so many young men, young, 'chipper and sassy,' and the majority, the great majority, of them learned their trade as the Irishman did his fiddling, by main strength. As a rule the ranks are filled with practical business men, men who would have succeeded equally as well had they chosen other walks in life. Of a necessity, we have the irrepressible young man amongst us who wants to see your notes, offers fine-haired suggestions, wants to know whether you, really now, got every word of that witness, and how much it will pan out; and as we have no Chicago attachment, no gas-pipe joint conveniently projecting from the wall, to hang him on, he escapes, and is suffered to remain at large.

"As we have no stenographic law (except the unwritten one), we depend upon such work as we can beg, borrow or steal. Our city circuit court is held in five rooms; these, with the United States circuit and district court (in one room) and the criminal court constitute the main artery from which many of us have drawn our sustenance. The accommodations for the reporter are primitive in the extreme, some of the court rooms being furnished with rickety leaf-chairs, and others with tables that make the shorthand man's back ache to reach up to and write on for a few hours. One of our number, more enterprising than the others, has placed a little wash-stand, with locked drawer, in the court house, but the early rivals gobble this up with impunity, often to the detriment of the original squatter. Several of the rooms are illy ventilated, and one of them is so dingy and dark that it requires strong eyes and powerful glasses to read back to the court and jury the cross-examination of an excited Italian female from the county of Tipperary. The United States courts, located in the old custom house building, are the particular terror of the 'boys.' They overlook a noisy, stone-paved alley, are dark and

uncomfortable; in summer time no air, in winter time a blazing hot stove at the elbow. The witness sits up on a dais, some ten or twelve feet from the writer, his face turned to the judge or jury; the judge rocks in an old arm-chair behind an old-fashioned, high-backed counter; the lawyers stand between the witness and the poor shorthand man; and to make the matter as painful and discouraging as possible, the miserable stenos sits with his back to the witness, at a conventional court table, all littered over with papers and books. The criminal court room is, perhaps, the best arranged for the comfort of all parties concerned.

"As I remarked a line or two above, the courts have, up to a recent date, been the haven of refuge for shorthand men; some few, however, notably among the elder hands, had adopted the New York style, that of depending on office cases, such as depositions and references. This, I think, was brought about by three causes: Primarily, by the decrease of local litigation; secondly, by the unfriendly competition; and lastly, by the extreme liability of cases being continued over to another term of court, or going off the hooks altogether, after waiting a day or more on the anxious seat. The decrease of litigation has been fully fifty per cent. within four years, and the attorneys, old and young (and with them, of course, stand or fall the stenographers), are loud in their wailings over the intelligence and peacefulness of the times. The unfriendly and unfair competition has resulted in making the price for skilled shorthand labor as variable as that of butter and eggs. 'Anything to beat Grant,' or the other man, seems to be graven on the escutcheon of the combatants. I deem it safe to allege that not one-half of the reported cases pay full rates; by that I mean ten dollars per day and twenty cents per folio. It was thought that the introduction of the telephone into the court house would overcome the last cause assigned above for the diminution of work; but it was found that the rent of the Bell telephone was too steep for any individual stenographer, and to have one in common with other reporters seems not to work harmoniously—seems almost as bad as shorthand partnerships. One firm did place a private telephone in the court house, connected with their office, but this has been found not to work well in all cases, since it frequently happens that the 'boss' of the shop is not at the other end of the 'hello' foundry, and the man who is as good as the 'boss' is not the man that is wanted. This has also had a tendency to create an unfair advantage over the other good men and true, who could not afford to sit on their thumbs in a dingy court room more than ten hours out of twelve. So, taken altogether, these various causes have set some of the older brains to devising new ways and means for gaining a livelihood.

"Until the close of the last past June, there was a field outside of the court room, at first not exactly a field of the cloth of gold, but which latterly, by reason of its seeming unprofitableness and consequent little competition, had grown into stalwart significance. This was familiarly known as the 'deposition mill.' But, alas! in the midst of our dreams of Elysian fields and things, a silver-tongued Cicero from our city threw an Orsini bomb 'neath the pendant coat tails of the profession, scattered the labor of years, and left a lot of us high and dry, and 'madder than wet hens.' The notarial law of the State

has for years been a crying evil. Its abuse by unprincipled parties caused public opinion to be arrayed against it, and from five to six hundred incumbents of that high and mighty office were threatened with speedy extermination. Each professional reporter of the city had his little commission, which was as easily gotten as the sniffles in damp weather. At length the sword of Damocles fell. A young and astute statesman from this city, feeling it incumbent upon him to earn his pay as legislator and crown himself with the laurels of public praise, puts his Archimedean lever to work, gives the the five to six hundred notaries the g. b. (grand bounce), amends the statute by limiting the number to be re-appointed to one hundred, and otherwise changes the law in not one particular. Then there was hurrying to and fro, marshaling in mad haste to get the muchly signed recommendation to his Imperial Excellency, the Democratic Governor of Missouri, for re-appointment. The list as made up by the Governor and his friends finally appeared in the daily prints. In that list were found the names of but two professional reporters; one of these, taking time by the forelock, qualified at once, raked in the sestertias, and grew lean and yellow from overwork and heat; while the other climbed out of the city between two days, turned up in Texas with a shot gun and a 'yaller dog,' and is growing tanned and fat. Two other gentlemen were appointed notaries who are shorthand writers and pseudo attorneys. So that the fair city of the bridge, with its 363,528 inhabitants, has four shorthand men to do its notarial work; the other ninety-six were selected, some because of their sisters and their cousins and their aunts, some because of their known reputation and integrity, but the great majority because of their faithfulness in striking for the old flag, the Democratic one. Now these Mephistophelean fortunates waylay the unlucky Fausts, who did not get their fingers into the pie, and seek to make contracts with them somewhat after this fashion: The longhand notary will come to the place where the shorthand man has run down a victim; he will swear the witnesses, and while the shorthand man is filling his note books, the longhand notary will fill the cuspadors, hold down a chair and look wise. Then, when the transcript has been prepared by the shorthand man and his amanuensis, the notary will charge the shorthand man the legal rate of fifteen cents per folio, and permit the reporter to pay his help and stationery and beer money out of the other five cents. Verily, verily, it is wonderful how we do it, but we do—not.

"Do you not begin to see now why I have suffered my pen to betray me into this prolixity of words? It is to show the convention that if there is one State or city more than another that needs beneficial legislation, it is our State and city. We have lost our court work in the main; what little we can filch pays poorly; the deposition mill has shut down on the golden egg business, except to the fortunate four; and there is no balm in Gilead, save in good shorthand laws and protective measures.

"The entire State of Missouri is not so unmindful of the shorthand man as the city of St. Louis. An effort was made during the sitting of that august and astute body, the legislature, last winter, to wake the fraternity to the necessity of placing a good law on the statute books of Missouri. Some favored the measure, others pooh-poohed it,said it wouldn't pass anyway, the good times

are upon us, why anticipate the lean kine and the empty granaries; it wouldn't rain much anyway. So the St. Louis profession hugged itself in fancied security, and the drafted bill was quietly pigeon-holed. But this horny-handed, beaded-browed Cincinnatus, already referred to above, introduced his little bill, put the prices at a few points above zero, and, thanks to the indifference of the St. Louis offices, came within four votes of making it law. A pretty landmark this would have been for the stenographers of Missouri! A little side-show under a separate canvas, but all for the same general admission price, contrived to pass for itself what is farcically known as a stenographic law, applicable solely to the criminal court of our city. A reading of that law (?) by any member of this convention will convince him that no professional stenographer drew it up; or if such was the author, that poverty had blunted his mental vigor. I will pass it by, simply adding that no professional law reporter holds down that chair.

"In the preceding remarks I have referred only to what, I presume, may be termed the profession of shorthand, that branch which is filled by the law and general reporter. But another class has, Arab-like, stolen upon us in the darkness of the night, pitched its tents under our walls, and has filled the plain with an almost countless army of those who wield the arch enchanter's wand. I allude to the shorthand clerk. It would be difficult to estimate how many of these there are in our city. Each business house and office of any standing has its shorthand clerk; some have several. This is the usual channel for general shorthand talent, (and I may add, *par parentheses*, not an unremunerative one), its requirements not being so varied and exacting as that of general reporting, and it opens the door to ladies; its hours of labor are defined, the kind of work is uniform, and the salary certain. There need never have been any clashing of the interests of the two castes, but of late years, with the multiplication of shorthand colleges, one law office after another, one business house after another, has been switched out of the professional reporter's circuit, because, forsooth, some half-starved law student, or shorthand beginner, for the privilege of a good library or desk room and what he can make out of the other attorneys for sweet charity's sake, does the work of the law office for nothing, or for a mere song. In the building in which I have my office one law firm had its 'crack' reporter, whose monthly stipend amounted to the fabulous sum of twenty-five dollars. And yet that man wears better clothes than I do, has a 'boiled shirt' once a week and trimmings. How can a white man compete at such figures.

"Then, to show that it never rains but it pours, we have now in our midst a genial, tall sycamore of the Mississippi, who must needs spend his time, talents and money, and invent a machine for reporting—the stenograph. I presume you have all seen a wood cut and descriptive article in our star-eyed friend *Browne's Monthly* of recent date. With this he threatens to bear the market, by reducing the time of study from one-half to two-thirds, and by promising absolute legibility, bring our arcane knowledge within the grasp of every boy or girl in the land. In a few years stenographs will be as plentiful as Edison's phonographs, and do the profession a corresponding amount of damage.

"In conclusion, I say we of Missouri need help. That help can only come from a systematic putting of the shorthand shoulder to the wheel, giving a good pull and a long pull, and thus raise our profession once more to the heights from which a modern and vandal age has torn our standard. We stand in need, not so much of money legislation, as of laws that will create good feeling among the laymen; laws that will inspire the public with confidence in our ability; laws that will keep incompetent and unworthy aspirants out of the rank and file; laws that will unite us in one solid phalanx all over the United States and Canada, for protecting ourselves and advancing the interests of the profession.

"I have been, personally, in favor of just such a movement as is now contemplated by this convention, and it is with the deepest regret I miss this opportunity of shying my castor into the ring, and being among you in person. I wish you all possible success in your noble endeavors, and shall, in my humble way, do all I can to carry out whatever the convention determines upon as the proper measure.

"I have the honor to be the convention's respectful servant,

"FRANK KRAFT."

The fifth toast,

"THE SHORTHAND STUDENT,"

was responded to by Mrs. D. L. Scott Browne, of New York City, as follows:

"*Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen and Ladies:*

"I did not know till to-day that I was expected to respond to this toast, consequently have had very little time to prepare anything about the shorthand student, and do not believe I can entertain you very well upon the subject. What I know, from personal experience, of such students I will try to express in a few words.

"It may perhaps occur to many to ask what classes of society furnish shorthand students, for what purpose they take up the study of shorthand, and whether they all succeed. I find that they come from all classes, poor, middling, rich. I find among them those not so well endowed mentally, the mediocre and the brilliant. I find them also young, middle aged, and well advanced in years, some students under my own instruction being but eight years of age, and others past sixty. Ladies, too, take up the study, as well as gentlemen; and they come from the country, town and city. Among all these varying classes of students there are some traits of character which they all have in common, namely, grit, pluck, back-bone, strength of character, and I can say that they possess more stamina than ordinary people. The ladies who take up shorthand are not addicted to trashy novel reading, but are what many would call strong-minded, preferring to read scientific, philosophical and fine literary works. I find them sensible, intelligent, self-reliant, and if some of them are strong-minded, they are so without being in the least

masculine about it. The gentlemen who take up shorthand are temperate, intelligent and highly respectable. To say of a young man, 'he is a shorthand student,' is almost a guarantee that he is everything a young man should be, and he is accepted without further credentials. In pursuing this study, he has to be in earnest, and he is in earnest; he is not lazy, for a lazy man can never be a phonographic student.

"The purposes for which these students take up shorthand are various. Some intend to use it as a means whereby to earn their way through a college course, some as a stepping-stone to law, medicine, journalism or the ministry. In all these professions a young man has to serve a long time before he begins to realize any financial benefits; but with shorthand he has an immediate means of earning a good livelihood while he is slowly climbing into a reputation in one or another of these professions, when he will no longer need shorthand as a direct bread and butter winner, but only as a convenience, an accomplishment, or as a constant auxiliary to all his other work through life. Others take up the study in order to spend their leisure hours profitably in something that will discipline the mind, and eventually bring them in contact with educated people. Shorthand has been the making of many a young man (and young woman too), taking him from the farm or the workshop, and bringing him into the society and under the influence of the talented, cultured and refined. Others study shorthand for the purpose of becoming and remaining an amanuensis or a reporter,—two branches of the most lucrative profession open to either a young man or woman, and a profession having the advantage of not being over-crowded.

"Now, in regard to whether the shorthand student succeeds in gaining the end sought. If he is a genuine student, and circumstances do not compel him to step out of his studies into some other business that he may have been qualified for before, he pursues his shorthand practice day after day with commendable diligence, his hopes and his doubts alternately chasing each other, until success crowns his efforts, and he becomes a full-fledged professional, either as an amanuensis, reporter or teacher.

"With time for preparation, I might have said something amusing and more instructive about the shorthand student, whom, whether lady or gentleman, I have always found to be a refined, intelligent, sensible person; and I will add that, so far as I am acquainted with them, shorthand writers as a class are really *very nice* people, and competent to fill any station in life; remarking which, I will, after thanking you for your kind indulgence, take my seat."

Mr. T. I. Daniels, said,—"Mr. Toastmaster, I have heard a desire expressed by some of those present to hear some remarks on a subject not yet touched upon,

but which is certainly one of interest. I therefore propose as the sixth toast,

'THE CHICAGO SHORTHAND WRITERS ASSOCIATION,'

and call upon Prof. Dan Brown to respond."

Mr. Dan Brown said:

"*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

"I can say, with others this evening, that I have had no previous notice, but I cannot say that I am not acquainted with the subject; I am not only acquainted with it, but very familiar with it.

"For one reason I am glad of an opportunity to speak to you upon this subject, and that is, that it has been currently reported among the law stenographers of our city that the Chicago Shorthand Writers Association had stolen their name. I am inclined to think that there is a difference between the names 'Chicago Shorthand Writers Association' and 'Law Stenographers Association,' as well as a difference in fact. We have had some correspondence which tended to identify the two, but we have always taken pains to correct such errors.

"I shall endeavor to tell you in brief what the Chicago Shorthand Writers Association is. Seeing a necessity for supplying the demand for shorthand writers, especially as amanuenses, in the year 1878 we organized an employment bureau for that purpose, and subsequently changed the name to 'Chicago Shorthand Writers Association.' Our platform is broad, receiving writers of any system of shorthand who can take notes from dictation and transcribe them correctly. By advertising judiciously, we have increased the demand for such persons, and found employment for our members, not only in Chicago, but in various cities of the country, where they are constant advertisers of our work, and refer to the 'shorthand center, Chicago,' inquiries made of them. Thus our Association has become known in almost every city of the universe, and as a result applications are constantly made to us for shorthand amanuenses.

"As Secretary of the Association, I have sometimes been requested to supply shorthand writers for reporting conventions and for legal work; but, as I remarked in the beginning, our work being in a different direction, we have made a practice of turning these applications over to the regular law and general stenographers of our city. Our work in this direction does not interfere with the general shorthand work of the city; on the contrary, we have known several instances in which it has proved a benefit to the law stenographer. One which I will refer to, was of a young man who came here from a neighboring city, and visited one of the law reporting firms, stating that he was an experienced law reporter. I happened to be present at the time, and heard the conversation. After questioning him pretty closely, the law reporter told him that if he would go to No. 50 Dearborn Street, the Secretary of the Shorthand Writers Association there would be the most likely man to know

of any chances for work in the city. In due time the young man appeared at the Secretary's office, and, after an interview, was installed a member of the Association, and soon found his proper place, that of an amanuensis at ten dollars per week, all that he was worth to anybody.

"This association now numbers about three hundred and fifty members, and has filled one hundred and fifty situations since the first of this year. In fact, we cannot secure competent shorthand writers fast enough to meet the demands made upon us.

"We believe that this and other organizations of shorthand writers have had an influence in calling together this convention, and to start that more important organization, the International Association of Shorthand Writers of the United States and Canada, that you have to-day organized, and which, I hope, will prove a great benefit to the stenographers of America."

The seventh toast,

"THE SHORTHAND AMANUENSIS,"

was responded to by James Abbott, Chicago, in the following happy manner:

"*Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

"When the country youth has, in his own mind and to his own satisfaction, successfully waded through the details of his shorthand dictionary, and is able to superintend the architecture of neat twelve-word phonographic phrases, and can, with calm assurance, warrant the same not to burst under high pressure speed, he turns his footsteps toward the metropolis, where his talents may be recognized, and his labored acquirements may find remunerative employment. Occasionally he ends his search in the small town, but usually he considers that the natural bent of his genius can be duly appreciated only in the great city. There he generally lights on a job as an amanuensis, and engages for a time in an office at commercial or dictation work. Others soar higher, and perhaps have the extreme felicity of running across a 'sit' in that *sanctum sanctorum* to the unitiated, a shorthand reporter's headquarters, not for the sake of any salary, but with the idea of becoming a verbat equal to any emergency. Many an office clerk plugs away, and hires a boy to read to him evenings, thoroughly convinced that the goal of his highest hopes will be reached by a few weeks practice on the nicely wrought intricacies of his pet system, interspersed, of course, with many little improvements and additions of his own. Some stick to it until they blossom out into that concentration of phosphorescent gorgeousness, the professional stenographer, together with all the honors and emoluments thereunto belonging. The honors sometimes score more points than the emoluments.

"With me the case was a little different. When I first emerged from the obscurity of an Illinois hamlet, I thought my destiny was in no humble line as an office scribe, but I immediately tackled a lively lawsuit (not, however,

without some trepidation and mental forebodings), and tried hard to get away with the same, but I rather think the lawsuit got away with me. The records are silent as to how much of that case I did not get down, but I am well informed it was the greater part of it. With practice, however, came confidence, and in my palmy days I could glibly read a question of which I had not written a word, and if it was not exactly what was said, I felt sure it was what ought to have been said, and if the correctness of the same was ever called in question, I could back it up with an affidavit filed on both edges.

"One of the proudest achievements of my life was the way in which I made an official report of the National Greenback convention, held in this city last summer. I fumed away over the confusing motions and remarks of delegates, and wrestled single-handed with the decisions of the chair one whole day, and left my partner to struggle through the evening, or, rather all-night sitting, but as the midnight hour was passed, and it looked as though they were going to remain in perpetual session, he gathered together his note book and pencils, and silently stole away, leaving that vast convention to deliberate without the aid of an official stenographer. Along toward morning Gen. Weaver was nominated for the Presidency, and being called on for a speech, responded. Imagine my delight the next day when the editor of the greenback organ in this city requested me to furnish a transcript of Weaver's speech, accepting the nomination. It was what politicians or statesmen would call a crisis. Among the fly-leaves of a reporter's memory it is only an episode. I informed the editor that the speech would be ready for the next issue, and immediately set myself to a careful study of the principles and doctrines of soft money, sent a member of this convention to interview Gen. Weaver, gleaned what scattering knowledge I could from the newspaper reports of the convention as they had been published, and by evening had evolved from my imagination a speech which was at once a credit to the intellectual acquirements of the nominee and a true exposition of the platform and principles of the National Greenback party, reported *verbatim* by the official stenographer of the convention. At least it has passed current as such among the faithful ever since, and the authenticity of the speech has never been questioned. But the effort was too much for me; my nerves were over-taxed, and a reaction set in. The febrile rise in my temperature was phenomenal, and attended with other alarming symptoms. I withdrew from my place as a sovereign law reporter, and retired from the business before the business retired from me. I have since been posting correspondents of a speculative turn of mind when would be the proper time for them to place their surplus capital in wheat, and when to go short on long futures. I think my efforts in that direction have been voluminous, if not valuable, and that the aforesaid speculators have lost their money fully as fast as those who were not posted at all. Perhaps you think I have amassed enough wealth to vacate with, but I can assure you I am still at work, and will be for some time to come. I might say my position is one of ease, especially when the mail is heavy, and it takes till eleven o'clock at night to answer all the letters.

"As your correspondent grows familiar with the details of his business, and is gradually taking the work off his employer's shoulders, the consciousness

creeps over him that his services are getting to be indispensable; whereupon he demands a raise in salary. But his ardor is sometimes dampened by the fact that the employer does not take the same view of the case, and your correspondent gets unceremoniously bounced.

"The army of young men, and I may also add, of women also, engaged as amanuenses in this country is legion. In this city alone we are informed of the employment of upwards of three hundred, and the actual number is doubtless much greater. A more ambitious crowd it would be hard to run across. Probably the majority of them are looking for the time when their talents will be duly appreciated, and they will be asked to take a half interest in the dividends of the establishment, or assume full control. Some wander off into this or that, but your genuine enthusiast, who thinks shorthand the sum of all happiness, keeps up his practice, and sometimes rises to the full stature and dignity of a law and general stenographer. Your humble servant is one who, having risen to those dizzy heights, has degenerated to an amanuensis."

The toastmaster—"I will propose as the eighth toast,

'THE PRESS AND SHORTHAND,'

and call upon E. W. Dillingham, of the *Chicago Times*, to respond."

Mr. Dillingham said:

"*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

"I can second the remark of Mrs. D. L. Scott Browne when she speaks especially of the student, and I would say of the stenographer in general. As Mrs. Browne said of your profession, let me say of my own, we are all very nice people. Your profession and mine form a sort of brotherhood. I remember sitting next to the member of this convention who spoke of the way in which he drafted the speech of Gen. Weaver. I also sat next to him at the Republican convention here, making a longhand report of the many little speeches of that very important convention, and when I was 'long,' what little things I needed were immediately gathered from the shorthand notes of my neighbor.

"Let me, in the name of my profession, thank you, not only for the hospitalities we have enjoyed here to-night, but also for the many favors in the court room, the convention and elsewhere which we of the press have received from the brotherhood of shorthand reporters.

"I can only wish that I had had previous notice of this toast, in order that I might have done my profession more credit. Again I thank you."

The ninth toast,

"THE JUDGE AND THE STENOGRAPHER,"

was responded to by the Hon. Henry Booth, of Chicago, who spoke as follows:

"*Ladies and Gentlemen:*

"By referring to the programme, you will see that a real judge had been nominated to respond to this toast, and that I am called upon as a substitute, which is both your misfortune and mine.

"My first duty is to return thanks for myself and companion for the kind courtesy which has given us a place at your table, to partake of the good things that have been so bountifully spread before us, and, more especially, to listen to the good things which have been said, and which we knew would be said, on such an occasion as this.

"'The Judge and the Stenographer.' I think these names are very happily coupled. Both parties are quite essential in conducting the business of a court of justice. Indeed, I am not sure but that on many occasions the stenographer performs a more important service than the judge. At all events, there is and always should be a mutual and most cordial good understanding between the two.

"The stenographer has become so necessary a party in the ordinary administration of justice in the courts, that really the wonder is how we ever got along without him. I can illustrate my idea in this way. Standing here, under these brilliant gaslights, the wonder arises in the mind how we could ever get along with tallow dips or greasy whale oil lamps. What the gaslight is to those tallow dips, the stenographer is to the former means and appliances we had for plodding through a trial and making up the record. Those were times of darkness, those times of tallow dips. And so we now look back upon those times of darkness in the administration of justice, and wonder how it was possible to transact the business of the court without the use of the stenographer. And this, it seems to me, is sufficient to say of the stenographer in connection with the judge.

"But if you will bear with me, I would like to express one or two other thoughts that have arisen in my mind while sitting here at the table. It really seems wonderful how the world at large, let alone the courts, has managed in former times to move along without any assistance from the stenographer. When I reflect that this art has come into use within a brief period, quite within the recollection of most of us, I think how much the world has lost for want of the shorthand reporter in former times. To go backwards a long distance, three thousand years or more, when Homer, 'the blind old bard of Scio's rocky isle,' recited his poems in the streets of the cities of Greece (for you may be sure that the brain which gave birth to the Iliad and Odyssey was the source of many other interesting poems), what a pity that no stenographer was there to catch the inspired accents as they fell from

his lips, and hand them down to our time. Or when Socrates indoctrinated his disciples with words of wisdom, or Plato taught in the groves of the Academy, what a pity the stenographer was not there to interview those old philosophers, and get at the true inwardness of their teachings. So, too, when I read some of those wonderful speeches made by statesmen and generals of the olden time, as recorded in history, such, for instance as that memorable speech of Hannibal, addressed to his army on the morning of one of his great battles, commencing somewhat after this style, '*Quocumque circumtuli occulos plena omnia video animorum acroboris*,' the question occurs to me whether that old Carthagenian general did actually address his soldiers in good, smooth Latin, after that fashion, or whether that speech was prepared for him by his historian. I believe it is not the practice in modern times for a general before a fight to make a set speech, either for the the benefit of his soldiers or the reporters. Perhaps it is because the manner of modern battles, carried on with cannon, shot and shell, is unfavorable for such oratorical efforts. The noise is apt to drown the voice of the speaker.

"And again, I say it reverently, when the divine man of Judea walked and talked familiarly with his disciples, how intensely interesting it would have been if a stenographer could have been there to take down all that he said, so that we could be sure of his very words. For example, when we read that sermon on the mount, the best of all sermons, reported by both Matthew and Luke, but in the version of one about three times as long as in that of the other, we would like to know whether the difference is the result of omissions by Luke or interpolations by Matthew. And what a supreme satisfaction would have been afforded if a reporter could have been present at that most significant and remarkable trial of the most illustrious personage ever brought before any court, the trial before the Jewish Sanhedrim, when Pontius Pilate figured in the case. I need but refer to such an occasion as this to show what the world has lost for want of an earlier development of the stenographic art.

"To refer to an instance nearer our own time, the patriotic appeal of Patrick Henry to the Virginia House of Burgesses. I think we would all give something to have the exact text of that famous speech. We would all prefer to have the veritable words uttered by Henry on that occasion, rather than those put into his mouth by his biographer, however elegant they may be.

"After all, however, there is another side to the question. I have spoken of what we have lost, but there is always some sort of compensation for all loss. The affairs of this world seem to be conducted upon a principle of compensation. While we have lost something of the wisdom of the past, much of its stupidity and folly lies buried in oblivion, which the stenographer might have transmitted down to us, to poison the springs of our daily life. We all know how it is at the present time. Even stenography is not an unmixed good, if you will allow me to say the truth in this presence. We all know how many stupid speeches, full of platitudes and nonsense get into the newspapers; speeches on political, social and financial subjects; speeches on all sorts of subjects; and how many stupid sermons, too, get into the papers, through the instrumentality of the stenographer.

"After all, are we quite sure that we have really lost much of the wisdom of the past? I apprehend that nearly all that is really valuable has been handed down to us. For there is nothing so imperishable as a thought, fitly spoken. It may have been engraved upon marble or granite, and the marble, the granite, by the erosion of time and the elements, may be dissipated into fine dust, yet the thought, the idea, will live in the memory of man. Horace was quite correct, when he said in one of his poems, 'I have finished a monument more durable than brass.' On the other hand, if the ideas are not valuable they will perish, as they ought to. Time, in its steady flow, sweeps them along into the abyss of oblivion. Why, ladies and gentlemen, all your stenographic force could scarce avail to preserve for a single year anything that I have uttered here to-night. But let a truly valuable thought find utterance, and it will effect a lodgment in living memory, and will never die. Realizing the deep significance of what I have just stated, and feeling that what I am and have been saying has no value whatever, I shall bring my remarks to a close, again thanking you for the kindness shown me on this occasion."

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ERRATUM.

On page 35, line 17, for "Writing Manual," read "Writing Marvel."

S. A. S. W.,

Of the United States and Canada.

Chicago, Ill., JAN. 20, 2, 188

September 1st, 1881, the shorthand writers in convention at Chicago, Ill., organized an International Association of Shorthand Writers, and provided for annual meetings. The next meeting will be held at Cincinnati, Ohio, September 7th 1882.

It is earnestly desired that all shorthand writers who are qualified for membership should identify themselves with this Association, and help to make it strong in numbers and influence.

Your correspondence on the subject is solicited.

Yours truly,

Brown & Holland,

Secretaries.

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Chicago 1881

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